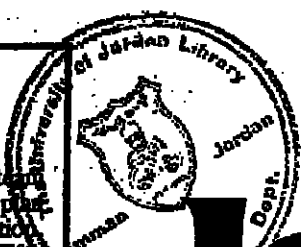


TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli occupation forces clamped a two-hour curfew on Friday on a Palestinian refugee camp after a firebomb attack on an Israeli automobile that caused no injuries or damage, a military source said. The attack was on a vehicle outside the Ain Bet Alma camp near the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, 65 kilometres north of Jerusalem, the source said. The violence came while Israelis were on holiday celebrating a religious festival. Camp residents were forced to remain indoors for after the attack at 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., added the source, who in keeping with military regulations, spoke on condition of anonymity. It was the second firebomb assault since Thursday on vehicles travelling highways in the occupied West Bank. Thursday's attack just north of Jerusalem also caused no injuries, Jerusalem police said.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

NICOSIA (R) — A three-member Soviet Foreign Ministry team arrived in Cyprus on Friday to discuss Moscow's first detailed plan to end the country's entrenched ethnic division. The delegation, led by Ivanovic Minkov, deputy director of the ministry's Fifth Political Directorate, arrived amid charges by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş that Greek Cypriots were blocking U.N. efforts towards a Cyprus solution. Cypriot officials said the Soviet team would discuss how to promote Moscow's proposals, which have been rejected by Turkish Cypriots but received a qualified welcome from Greek Cypriots. Main elements of the proposals are an international meeting aimed at drafting a treaty settlement, a system of international guarantees excluding foreign intervention in Cyprus, and removal of all foreign troops and bases.

Siad Barre to leave hospital soon

BAHRAIN (R) — Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, recovering from road crash injuries in Riyadh military hospital, is expected to be discharged within a week, Somali officials said Friday. They told Reuters by telephone that the 67-year-old president is reading, watching television and receiving well-wishers including Saudi officials and diplomats. Mr. Siad Barre was hurt when his car overturned in heavy rain near Mogadishu, the Somali capital, on May 23.

Oslo approves role in UNIFIL

OSLO (AP) — Norway's 850-member unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Friday had its mandate formally extended to Oct. 19 this year by the Storting, Norway's 157-seat parliament. Only two representatives of the ultra-right anti-tax progress party voted against, according to the Norwegian news agency.

Qadhafi denies Libyan role in Berlin blast

ROME (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was quoted as saying in a message released on Friday that Libya was not involved in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque on April 5 which triggered United States air strikes against Libya. The text of the video message, addressed to the Italian people, was released by Italy's small left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party, which said a delegation from its party was given the tape during a recent nine-day visit to Libya. "America practises state terrorism in order to prevent us living in peace in our country. We are not connected with the attack on the discotheque in Berlin, which cannot in any case be used as a justification for this aggression. Those responsible for this attack must be caught and tried," Col. Qadhafi said.

Danes beat Germans

QUERETARO, Mexico (R) — Denmark beat West Germany 2-0 (halftime 1-0) in the World Cup Group E match here on Friday. Scorers: Jesper Olsen (44th minute) and John Eriksen (63rd minute). At Nezahual Coyotl, Uruguay and Scotland drew 0-0 in a Group E match.

Libya 'upgrades' air defences

WASHINGTON (R) — Libya has upgraded its anti-aircraft defences but received little new Soviet military aid since the April 15 U.S. bombing raids on the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, U.S. officials said Friday. "I don't know if the Soviets have made a decision on holding down new equipment for (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi, but the fact is that they haven't given Libya much except some missile help," one official told Reuters. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Soviet technicians have helped Libya add an SA-5 anti-aircraft missile site at Benghazi to an already existing SA-5 site near the town of Sirte.

Syria-Iraq meeting postponed pending further preparation

Arab summit finalisation awaits Saudi leader's visit to Morocco

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer and agency despatches

A MEETING between the foreign ministers of Syria and Iraq which was scheduled to be held on Friday has been postponed pending further preparations, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not give details nor was there any official statements issued by the Syrian or Iraqi governments on the planned meeting, which His Majesty King Hussein said on Tuesday, was expected to take place on Friday.

There was no report of plans for the meeting in Damascus and Baghdad before or after the King's announcement, made in an interview published in Wednesday's issue of the Washington Post.

However, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said earlier this week that a high-level meeting was expected to take place between his country and Syria. Mr. Aziz did not give any date.

The meeting between Mr. Aziz and his Syrian counterpart, Farouq Shara'a, was expected to be held at the border post of Tammuz on the corner of the Iraqi-Syrian border near the Jordanian frontier, the Associated Press said in a dispatch from Baghdad. The news agency did not give its source.

rency on a private visit, the King voiced optimism that his efforts would bear fruit and Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation would pave the way for an Arab summit.

Ideological differences between Baghdad and Damascus and Syria's support for Iran in the Gulf war against Iraq have been the main stumbling blocks in efforts to convene a summit conference of the Arab heads of state.

Reports from Rabat indicated on Friday that moves to convene a summit are expected to climax in the next few days when Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia will pay a visit to Morocco.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi arrived in Morocco Thursday night to discuss with King Hassan the result of visits he made recently to eight Arab states in connection with the proposed summit.

An Arab foreign ministers' meeting would probably take place in Casablanca on June 24, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last month when he paid visits to Damascus and Baghdad. Talking to reporters in Paris on his way to the U.S., where he is cur-

Essebsi: Iraq-Syria reconciliation is vital for success of Arab efforts

By Randa Habib
Special to the Jordan Times

TUNISIAN Foreign Minister Baji Caid Essebsi has said that reconciliation between Iraq and Syria was central to any successful effort towards achieving an Arab consensus to handle challenges facing the Arab World.

Mr. Essebsi said that Arab summit conferences could not succeed in solving problems without securing Arab consensus on the proper approach to solve these problems.

He said that "reconciling Iraq with Syria means solving 80 per cent of Arab problems," adding that the absence of Arab consensus rendered powerless resolutions adopted at the Casablanca Arab summit of 1985. Mr. Essebsi, who was referring to the decision by five Arab states to boycott the summit, praised His Majesty King Hussein for his successful bid to draw Iraq and Syria



Baji Caid Essebsi

Lebanese problem. He said that a summit should also discuss aggressions against the Arab World such as the American air raids on Libya.

"Discussing one topic and ignoring the other is a prescription for failure," Mr. Essebsi said. "All countries should be present to confront and answer to the political realities in the region."

On the Palestine question, Mr. Essebsi said that Arab governments "should work towards reviving resolutions on the issue adopted at the 1982 Fez summit."

He added that a future summit "should approve a practical mechanism that would allow the implementation of these resolutions."

Mr. Essebsi said that this country fully supported the Palestinian cause without interfering in the internal affairs of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Our country has always pursued

Irbid candidates refocus on election campaign after controversial lawsuit

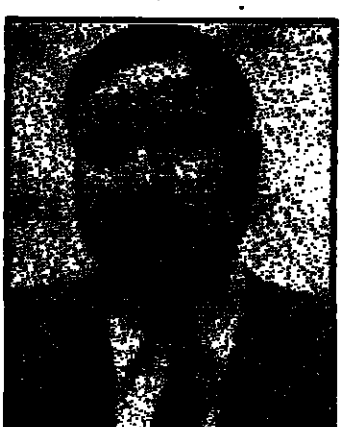
By Salamah Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Amin said that a lawsuit contesting the candidacy of Mr. Jamal Obeidat who is running in the June 19 Irbid by-elections has been withdrawn from the High Court on Thursday.

The lawsuit, according to informed sources, claimed that Mr. Obeidat should be disqualified because he had not resigned from the Irbid Cooperative Organisation (ICO). According to the



Jamal Obeidat



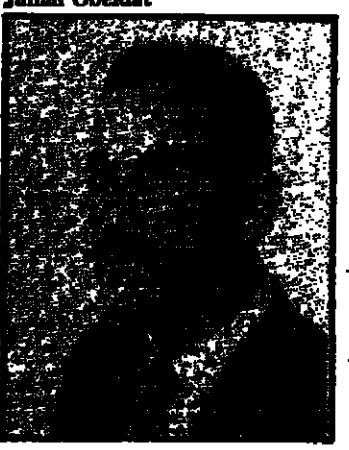
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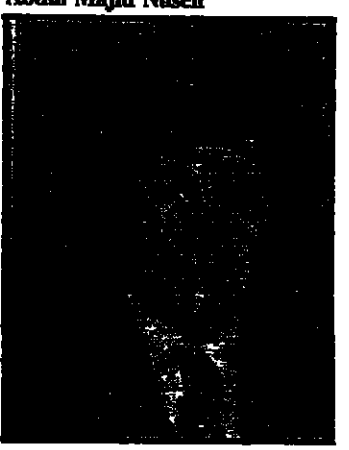
Anwar Shaboul



Sulaiman Al-Joudi



Rihab Miquddi



Ibrahim Jaradat



Mohammad Ghazzawi



TANKER COLLISION: Two fuel tankers belonging to a private company engulfed in flames after colliding near Al Azraq on their way to Amman from Baghdad on Friday. The accident occurred due to wrong overtaking by one of the

tankers, reports said. Fire fighters from Civil Defence centres in Zarqa, Al Azraq, Ruweisah and Safawi rushed to the scene to put out the fire (Photo by John Rice)

Lebanese leaders urge truce at Beirut camps

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Muslim leaders meeting in Syria on Friday urged an end to the fighting round Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and agreed that a new security force should also try to stop inter-Muslim fighting in the city, the official Syrian news agency (SANA) said.

The Lebanese Muslims, brought here by Syrian leaders, agreed on these steps after two days of talks aimed at trying to end a 23-day siege of the camps by Shi'ite militiamen.

As latest reports from Beirut spoke of tanks, mortars and machine-guns used overnight in fighting which has already cost at least 100 lives, the Lebanese leaders agreed a special Lebanese government group under Prime Minister Rashid Karami should set up a new security force to police a ceasefire, SANA said.

Mr. Karami and other Muslim political and spiritual leaders were called here to try to find ways to end the fighting and to heal rifts in Muslim ranks sparked by the defeat last week of a Sunni Muslim militia by Shi'ite Amal forces.

SANA said they had urged an immediate ceasefire in Beirut fighting as well as withdrawal of all gunmen from the streets.

Socialist leader Walid Junblatt also called on Palestinian leaders "to keep away from Lebanon and focus their eyes on Palestine and Jerusalem," the Syrian agency said.

SANA said the Lebanese Muslim leaders called for an end to all armed conflict in the capital.

King congratulates Waldheim on victory

Combined agency despatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has congratulated Kurt Waldheim on his election as president of Austria and expressed Jordan's keenness to further strengthen bilateral relations with Austria.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the King, who is currently on a private visit to the U.S., telephoned Dr. Waldheim on Thursday to congratulate the president-elect and express Jordan's pride in and appreciation of Austria's stands in support of just Arab causes and in service of world peace and security.

The King also affirmed Jordan's desire to further develop ties of cooperation with Austria, Petra added.

The King and Her Majesty Queen Noor arrived in the U.S. last Thursday. They attended the graduation ceremonies of Their Royal Highnesses Princess Zein

and Princess Aisha.

The King held talks with President Reagan at the White House on Monday. He also met with senior American officials including Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger as well as leading Arab American activists and businessmen.

The King and Queen checked in at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, on Wednesday. Reuter quoted a hospital spokeswoman as saying both the King and Queen were expected to undergo medical check-ups.

The spokeswoman for the clinic said the King and Queen will "undergo thorough physical exams. It usually takes a couple of days for a complete physical so they will probably stay until Friday night or Saturday morning."

Tutu meets Botha amid world outcry over state of emergency

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) —

Anti-apartheid black South African churchman Bishop Desmond Tutu had surprise talks with President P.W. Botha on Friday following Mr. Botha's declaration of a nationwide state of emergency on Thursday.

"The bishop requested and the president granted an audience," a spokesman for the president's office said, without giving details of the discussions.

The 90 minutes of talks between the two men, who are bitter opponents, took place in an unprecedented atmosphere of national crisis.

Under draconian emergency powers the security forces have detained hundreds of dissidents and silenced many others ahead of June 16, the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

Earlier, Nobel Peace Prize winner Tutu vowed to press ahead with his campaign against apartheid despite the emergency.

Seven people have died in South Africa since the emergency went into force at midnight on Wednesday, the government's bureau for information said.

The bureau said in a statement that one person was killed when a police patrol was attacked and six died in what it termed black-on-black violence. It did not say where the incidents took place.

The government's statement was not verifiable following the imposition of tough media curbs, including a ban on photographing incidents of unrest and police powers to evict reporters from black townships.

The government maintained silence over how many people had been detained in nationwide police swoops. State-run television put the total at 1,000 but the pro-government daily, the Citizen, spoke of 2,000.

On Thursday, shortly after announcement of the state of emergency, Bishop Tutu condemned the move as "iron-fisted" and urged the international community to intervene.

The country's largest black newspaper on Friday called on the government to quit, saying the emergency declaration has created "a wave of anger and defiance never seen before."

Several nations condemned South Africa for imposing the state of emergency.

Shultz denies SALT-II is 'dead'

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz denied on Friday that the Reagan administration had publicly declared the SALT-II treaty was dead, amid confusion about Washington's verdict on the superpowers' Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

He said the U.S. stance on the 1979 arms limitation accord, signed by then-President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was based on a policy of mutual restraint by both superpowers.

He made his comments in a satellite news conference as a major battle loomed between President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress on the issue, with the administration seeking to bury SALT-II and lawmakers fighting to save it.

Mr. Shultz insisted during the news conference beamed to Western Europe that no-one in the administration had described the treaty as "dead" but reporters said he failed to clarify its exact status in the eyes of the administration.

White House chief spokesman Larry Speakes said on Thursday, according to news reports from Washington: "SALT is dead. The SALT treaty no longer exists."

In response to the statement on Thursday, the official Soviet news agency TASS said early Friday the U.S. stand showed that Mr. Reagan was prepared to jeopardise other arms control agreements.

A commentary by TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachyov said previous U.S. administrations had recognised the need to put constraints on both sides' nuclear arsenals.

"The impression is created that the present United States administration does not share the generally accepted views on the danger of a destabilisation of the military and political situation and the catastrophic consequences of an uncontrolled arms race," Bogachyov said.

Washington has accused Moscow of violating SALT-II and said it will base future agreements on Soviet behaviour in arms negotiations and compliance with existing treaties.

Soviet sources in Bonn said the Soviet Union has offered sharp cuts in strategic nuclear weapons in return for an agreement with the United States to prolong the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty by 15 to 20 years.

They said a proposal tabled by Moscow at the Geneva arms talks on Wednesday called for both sides to agree to a strategic warhead limit of just over 6,000 — nearly 40 per cent below present levels.

The United States would be able to keep 1,650 delivery systems under such an accord while Moscow would have to cut back its systems to 1,250, the sources said.

They were speaking after Soviet chief arms negotiator Viktor Karpov had briefed journalists on Moscow's latest negotiating position.

The Jordan Times' new telephone numbers: 667171-6 and 671041-4

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Rajavi calls on Iranians to overthrow Khomeini

BAGHDAD (AP) — The leader of Iran's main opposition group during a visit to the graves of the fathers of the Shi'ite Muslim sect urged the people of Iran to rise and overthrow the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA) has reported.

It was the first report in Iraq on the activities of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the People's Mujahadeen resistance, since he arrived in Baghdad from France on Saturday night.

Mr. Rajavi and his wife, Maryam, co-leader of the guerrillas, visited the Shi'ite holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala south of Baghdad, the agency said.

Iran, which is at war with Iraq since September 1980, is preponderantly Shi'ite. Pilgrimage to Najaf and Karbala is sacred to Shi'ites as is pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia to Sunnis.

Khomeini himself lived in Najaf for 14 years in exile before residing in France shortly then moving back to Tehran after overthrowing the Shah in February 1979.

The couple prayed at the grave of Imam Ali, father of the Shi'ite sect and cousin of Prophet Mohammed.

"We came to lodge with Allah and you the pain and suffering of

the people of Iran," Mr. Rajavi was quoted by the agency as saying before Imam Ali's grave in Najaf.

"Our people have fallen in the holocaust of war... we came today to your land to complain before you about the crook Khomeini and his war," he said.

The agency added that Mr. Rajavi also visited Karbala, home of the tomb of Imam Ali's son, Al Hussein.

Al Hussein was killed in 680 A.D. in the battle of Karbala between a handful of his followers and soldiers of the Umayyad Dynasty.

At the grave of Al-Hussein, Mr. Rajavi called on the Iranian people to "bring down Khomeini and bring about peace and freedom," the agency said.

It added that during the visit, Mr. Rajavi handed out a list of 12,000 names of Iranians killed by the authorities in Tehran.

A large crowd of ranking Iraqi officials accompanied Mr. Rajavi, a warm welcome at Saddam Hus-

sein International Airport upon his arrival from France last Saturday.

A Mujahadeen statement issued in London Saturday night said that Mr. Rajavi and his entourage immediately left for Najaf and Karbala.

Mr. Rajavi left France, where he lived in exile for five years, under pressure from the Paris government, which is trying to mend fences with Khomeini's regime.

Mujahadeen said that Mr. Rajavi's move to Iraq was a "new stage" in the fight to topple Khomeini.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said at a news conference Tuesday during a visit to Paris that Iraq would provide "facilities" for Mr. Rajavi and his guerrillas to step up military operations inside Iran to overthrow the government that wants to overthrow it.

Iraq and Mujahadeen signed in 1983 a joint peace initiative to end the Gulf war.

Mujahadeen already has a radio station transmitting anti-Khomeini propaganda from Iraq.

Mujahadeen's London statement said that over 1,000 of Mr. Rajavi's supporters gradually moved from France to Iraq prior to their leader's departure.

The latest attempt to get the GUNT and Chad's government to talk peace failed when GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei did not turn up for negotiations with Mr. Habre set for the Congolese town of Louboho last March.

But if Mr. Habre's political position today is more secure than ever, economic problems remain profound.

Despite the return of rains last year which boosted food crops after a decade of drought, Chad's economy has been ravaged by a disastrous slump in the world price for cotton, which accounts for around 80 per cent of its export revenues.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Poor management of the state-controlled company Cotontchad has exacerbated the slump and resulted in a forecast Chadian financial deficit this year of some 40 billion CFA francs (\$111 million).

France, Chad's former colonial ruler, has pledged credit and the country's Western creditors are expected to reschedule Cotontchad's debts in an effort to prevent economic problems in the south leading to renewed political unrest.

But for the moment Mr. Habre's main preoccupation is the Libyan presence in Chad's desert north, the sources say.

Mr. Habre forces easily repelled a GUNT offensive earlier this year but he has frequently said peace will only come when Libya pulls its troops out of the north. Tripoli says it has advisers but no soldiers in Chad.

Last February France sent men and military equipment to Chad following what it said was a Libyan bombing raid on the airport of the capital, N'Djamena.

Habre bolsters position 4-years after coup

By Stephen Smith
Rabat

N'DJAMENA — President Hissene Habre of Chad has bolstered his military and political strength four years after seizing power but faces daunting economic problems in the poverty-stricken Central African state, political sources say.

Mr. Habre's decision to celebrate the anniversary of the June 7 coup in N'Djamena, the economic capital of southern Chad, is clear proof of his success in rallying once-hostile southern "codo" (commando) rebels to his side, they say.

Chadian officials estimate that since June 1985 more than 1,000 Codos — fighters loyal to local warlords — have rallied to Mr. Habre with the result that only forces of the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) now thwart his efforts to end two decades of civil war.

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Fuel crisis sends tempers soaring in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Tempers are at boiling point on Lebanon's roads as the war-torn country suffers through a petrol shortage — with many motorists resorting to violence to obtain precious fuel.

"I saw a motorist stop at a village petrol station and ask for a few litres of gas — but the people dragged him out of his car, beat him up and then shot him," said a taxi driver.

Those who manage to beg, buy or steal a few litres (gallons) often face hands of men who stop cars at gunpoint to siphon off the cars' petrol tanks.

Residents said it was not uncommon to see fistfights and pistols being brandished as drivers frantically jostled for first place at petrol pump queues that form before dawn.

In previous shortages, people have been killed or maimed as quarrels at petrol queues flare into machete fights. And Lebanon's put-upon drivers must also

run a daily gauntlet of militia checkpoints and random shelling.

Rather than push his car, one man was recently seen carrying empty cans and riding a donkey to the petrol pump.

Local newspapers and radio stations have reported attempts to stave off the petrol crisis, sparked by a recent rapid fall in the international value of Lebanon's pound.

"The (main Falangist militia) Lebanese Forces... is distributing 1.5 million litres (375,000 gallons) of petrol daily to ease the shortage pending the arrival this week of a tanker," the Falangist daily An-Nawar said.

Official sources said the petrol crisis began two weeks ago when the Central Bank delayed authorisation for new fuel imports — paid for in U.S. dollars and thus increasingly expensive — as the Lebanese pound's slide gathered pace.

The currency plunged to its 10th record low in three weeks Wednesday, closing at 39.50/39.75 to the dollar. Traders have blamed political uncertainty for the decline.

Motorists said that in two weeks the price of 20 litres (five gallons) of petrol had jumped from 85 pounds (\$2) to 120 pounds (\$3.14) in Christian east Beirut. Drivers in mainly Muslim west Beirut now had to pay up to 450 pounds (\$11.8).

Residents complained some of the petrol trickling through to Beirut was contaminated, or mixed with water.

"I had to push my car for miles. It packed up because there was water mixed with the gas," one driver said.

West Beirut seemed worst-off for fuel. Few cars could be seen moving while pedestrians gathered at corners to try to flag down the occasional taxi.

There is virtually no public transport system and you either have to walk or share a taxi — if you can find one," one resident said.

The fuel shortage has hit Beirut's dustmen who provide one of the few public services still available in the city after 11 years of civil war.

Many city garbage trucks have been immobilised and growing piles of rotting rubbish block pavements and spill over into the streets, adding to public dismay.

But there is a ray of hope. The Falangist Voice Of Lebanon radio said Wednesday one tanker with 29 million litres (seven million gallons) of petrol had docked at one port while another carrying a similar quantity would arrive on June 20.

Beirut normally relies on crude oil imports delivered to two refineries, one in northern Lebanon and the other in the south.

Kalb: U.S. watching Qadhafi's actions

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the United States continues to watch closely the actions of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and will respond appropriately to any actions against U.S. interests.

The spokesman declined to speculate about why Col. Qadhafi did not appear in person before a national holiday gathering on June 11 in Tripoli, nor would he speculate in general about Col. Qadhafi or about political conditions inside Libya.

The Libyan leader did address his countrymen on television and Mr. Kalb said some of Col. Qadhafi's comments deserved a response.

"He talked about a renewed threat to launch suicide squads against the United States. That shows that his commitment to international terrorism has unfortunately not abated," Mr. Kalb said, noting that Col. Qadhafi also talked about various Arab leaders.

Mr. Kalb said Col. Qadhafi's speech "demonstrates once again his antagonism toward moderate Arab states which share with the United States the goal of working toward a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

"And finally, just let me add this," the spokesman said. "The United States will continue to watch Qadhafi's actions closely

and will respond appropriately to any acts directed against U.S. interests. Qadhafi must recognize that any benefits he may perceive from his unacceptable policies are far outweighed by their costs."

Abdul Meguid meets Czech leaders

VIENTIANE (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Meguid met Czech leaders on Thursday on an official visit, held talks on Friday with Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak, the official Czechoslovak news agency Ceteka said.

Tensions reached a new peak Wednesday when arsonists believed to be non-observant Jews set fire to a Tel Aviv synagogue.

A group calling itself "People Against the Ultra-Orthodox" said it started the blaze in retaliation for the burning and vandalising by religious extremists of more than 50 bus shelters that displayed advertisements of women in revealing swimsuits.

Peres has pledged to crack down against the upsurge in violence that has added a new dimension to a prolonged struggle between devout and non-religious Jews over the future of Israel.

Despite the promise of tough measures, police said another bus shelter was set ablaze in Jerusalem overnight.

In retaliation, secular Jews cut a metal wire surrounding Jerusalem. The symbolic wall of ritual importance to devout Jews, allows them to carry religious items within the city on Sabbath.

Orthodox Jews who make up 20 per cent of the population and the secular majority have been at odds over the influence of ritual law on life in Israel since its creation in 1948.

Although they represent a minority, religious political parties — powerbrokers in coalition governments — have won important concessions in their fight to maintain the sanctity of the Sabbath and retain Israel's Jewish character.

Bombed Tripoli area attracts tourists

TRIPOLI (R) — The scars left by American bombers have turned Beni Ashour into the capital's most popular tourist site.

Tripoli residents and foreign visitors drive down the three-lane streets of Beni Ashour peering at the piles of rubble and snapping photographs of the buildings damaged in the U.S. air strike on the capital last April 15.

"It's almost become a museum," said 28-year-old Najmi, whose own house escaped unscathed in the residential neighbourhood in central Tripoli.

Nearly all of about a dozen apartment blocks hit in the raid remain in ruins.

Children now play on the swings of a park that, one day after the bombing, was packed with displaced families.

The homeless have been given furnished houses, new clothes and cash by Col. Muammar Qadhafi's government to begin a new life in the neighbourhood of Mansoura, residents said.

Behind what used to be the French embassy — its rear wall was blasted away — bulldozers have cleared away some of the rubble of a wrecked four-storey apartment building.

Most of the 20 people killed in Tripoli met their deaths in Beni Ashour.

Residents recall vividly the panic of that night when hundreds of residents, fearing a second attack, piled into their cars and fled to the countryside.

"Cars were in such a hurry to get out they were smashing into each other," remembered 16-year-old Khalid.

Two damaged buildings were under repair. Indian labourers

were busy restoring a wall of one building.

Some observers believe the U.S. planes were aiming at a communications tower in the neighbourhood supposed to be used by Libyan intelligence.

The tower was undamaged, although windows in the building beneath it were blown out. It stands vacant.

The Americans claim the raid was in retaliation for Libya ordering a bomb attack that killed two American servicemen in a Berlin discotheque. Libya denied any involvement and rejected U.S. charges that it was sponsoring international terrorism.

Stoic Beni Ashour residents say they do not think the Americans will come back. But one old man said: "Even if they do we are not afraid."

U.S. says Saudi AWACS 'essential'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the U.S. administration has several days to forward to Congress certification to finalise sale of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft to Saudi Arabia. "Completing the AWACS sale on schedule is essential to American credibility and

our reputation for honouring binding commitments," he said. "The primary purpose" of the sale is "air defence for Saudi Arabia, particularly in its vital oil fields and (for) the free flow of Gulf oil."

The delivery is essential to our regional role and to deter Iran in the future," he said. The sale is vital to continued harmonious relations

with Saudi Arabia.

He said the administration would decide on the timing of certification after consultations with leaders on Capitol Hill. The aircraft were sold to Saudi Arabia following a 1981 agreement, but have been under control of U.S. trainers.

Boycott threatens Euro-meeting in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Greece, Cyprus and some left-wingers from other countries plan to boycott a Council of Europe parliamentary assembly in Istanbul in two weeks' time, diplomatic sources said Friday.

The Council "mini-session" is expected to attract some 150 of the 400 full and substitute members of the Assembly of Parliamentary Affairs of the Strasbourg-based 21-nation "club" of West European democracies.

Turkey has been fighting for three years to regain recognition from Europe as a democratic country and the sources said the boycotts were likely to detract from what Ankara was hoping to present as a sign of approval from the West.

They said the assembly's Communist group of 13 full and substitute members had decided to

boycott the session along with the five Norwegian Socialist members.

Other leftists might also decide to stay away, they said.

The sources also said the two Greek Cypriot members had decided to fall in line with a decision by Greece's delegation not to attend the meeting from June 30 to July 4.

Their move was apparently linked to a recent rise in tension between the two neighbouring NATO member over air rights across the Aegean Sea.

Greece is out to block normalisation of Turkey's relations with the 12-nation European Community, alleging that Greeks suffer discrimination on property rights in Turkey.

Other members of the Communist group are ready to resume ties, accepting that Turkey is making

satisfactory progress towards democracy since the end of three years of military rule in 1983.

Critics point out, however, that political restrictions remain from that period, trade union rights are heavily circumscribed and allegations are repeatedly made of ill-treatment of detainees.

Five Council of Europe members — Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France and The Netherlands — last year dropped a complaint of human rights abuses against Turkey on the basis of assurances from Ankara. But leftists in some of those countries contest the decision.

The delegates to the "mini-session" are due to hold a series of committee meetings as well as a sitting of the 42-member standing committee, which acts for the full assembly between its Strasbourg sessions.

Syria-Iraq talks postponed pending preparations

(Continued from page 1)

Nove nber.

The fate of the proposed extraordinary summit, originally requested by Libya after the American air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi on April 15, will probably be sealed in the next few days when Prince Abdullah visits Morocco, according to the diplo mats.

Attempts to hold the summit on May 14, aborted when Arab foreign ministers, meeting in Fes failed to agree on an agenda and venue for the heads of state.

The ministers simply agreed to meet again in Morocco after Ramadan, which has just ended. In an arrival statement he made

Thursday, Mr. Klibi expressed confidence that his efforts to convene a summit would bear positive results.

The summit is scheduled to take place in Morocco on July 3 and 4, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad said on Wednesday. It quoted senior diplomatic sources in Rabat as saying Arab foreign ministers had also agreed to meet on June 23 to prepare an agenda for the summit.

Al Ittihad said Libya had expressed readiness to attend the summit with an open agenda. Arab leaders held their last full summit in Septe mber 1983. Five Arab states boycotted an extraordinary meeting in Casablanca

last August.

The question of the U.S. air attacks on Libya was no longer a burning issue, though it would come up at any Arab ministerial or summit meeting, Moroccan officials quoted by Reuters said.

The Fes meeting collapsed when Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi insisted on playing host to the summit at Sebha, in the Libyan desert, after Iraq and Gulf countries, concerned with the war with Iran, had successfully argued that the attacks on Libya were not the only attacks on Arab soil.

Diplomats said a Syria-Iraq reconciliation would increase the chances of convening an Arab summit.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 77111-19	BBC WORLD SERVICE 6.30, 7.30, 11.15 KHZ
PROGRAMME ONE 16:00 Kuran 16:25 Cartoons 16:35 Children's programmes 16:45 Documentary 16:55 Local series 17:05 Science and Life (Arabic) 17:15 News in Arabic 17:25 Arabic Series 17:35 Arabic play 17:45 News summary in Arabic 17:55 Play Contd.	07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Grand National Preview 07:45 Reflections 7:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 About Britain 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 World News 11:00 Newsweek 11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News Look Ahead 12:45 About Britain 13:00 News Summary: Trooping the Colour 13:15 Trooping the Colour 13:45 Letter from America 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Tenor and Baritone 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Anytime Goes 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Saturday Special 16:45 Saturday Special 17:00 News Summary: Saturday Special 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 World News 19:05 Saturday Special 19:15 Saturday Special 20:00 News Summary: Book Choice 20:30 News Summary: Saturday Special 21:30 Sports Round-up 21:00 22:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: I Chose Freedom 23:00 World News 23:05 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Jazz for the Asking 24:00 News Summary: Ships from Seven Seas 00:15 What's New Can Film Highlights 00:30 People and Politics 01:00 World News 01:05 From our own Correspondent 01:15 John Arlott's Cricket Anthology 01:30 Newsweek 01:40 Reflections 01:55 Sports Round-up 02:00 World News 02:05 Commentary 02:15 A Perfect Spy 02:30 Hollywood's Oscar Nights
RADIO JORDAN 6.30 KHZ, AM & 99 KHZ, FM & 99.0 KHZ, SW Tel. 77111-19	VOICE OF AMERICA 12.00 MW, 7.30, 9.45, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.00 KHZ and 12.10 KHZ
07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Pop Session 09:30 News Summary 10:00 Pop Session contd. 10:30 News Summary 11:00 Pop Session contd. 11:30 News Bulletin 11:45 Jordan Weekly 12:00 Music 12:30 Concert Hour 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Instrumentals 14:00 Old Favourites 14:30 Talking Points 15:00 Animal Vegetable Mineral 15:30 Top Twenty 16:00 The 15th Century A.H. 16:30 The Young Sound 17:00 News Summary 17:30 25 Years of Rock 18:00 News Summary 18:30 The Blues 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Country Music 20:00 News Headlines 20:30 Close down	07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 07:30 News Summary VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Closeup 08:30 News Summary VOA Morning 08:30 News 09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News This Week 10:30 Press Conference USA 10:40 News 11:10 Special English News & Features 20:10 News 20:10 Weekend 21:00 News 21:10 Close-up 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 American Viewpoints 22:30 Press Conference USA 23:00 News and Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 00:10 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	CIRCUS	CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES	MUSEUMS
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637109.	An exhibition on transportation means in Jordan at the French Cultural Centre (until June 19).	An art exhibition on "Artists in their studies" by Erika Klibi at the Goethe Institute (until June 24).	Romanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luweideh. Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. Tel. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 678906. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331. St. Epiphane Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Capitula School in Shamsiyya. Tel. 67134. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295. Rainbow Congregation (International, inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabbal Amman. Tel. 606974.	Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 1000 years old. Also mosaics from Medina and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qala (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabbal Luweideh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664340.
03:47 Fair 04:38 (Narrative) Dulu 05:36 Dhuhr 06:17 'Asr 09:45 Maghreb 21:28					

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ARRIVALS

25	Belgrade (JU)
15	London, Larnaca (BA)
15	Aqaba (RJ)
30	Kuwait (RJ)
30	Cairo (RJ)
45	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
55	Dhahran (RJ)
55	Doha (RJ)
55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
40	Bahrain (GF)
55	Cairo (MS)
55	Kuwait (KU)
55	New York, Vienna (RJ)
55	Paris, Damascus (AF)
55	Moscow (SU)
55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
55	Beirut (MEA)
55	Cairo (RJ)
55	Amsterdam, Damascus (KL.M)
55	Istanbul (RJ)
45	Bangkok (RJ)
10	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
15	Baghdad (IA)
15	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
30	Baghdad (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

Local sellback rates in ffs.

Belgian franc	76.8	77.9
Dutch guilder	139.2	141.5
French franc	49.2	50
Italian lire	22.8	23.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	208.5	212
Swedish crown	48.5	49.2
Swiss franc	189.8	193
U.K. sterling pound	528.9	537.3
U.S. dollar	347.5	350.8
W. German mark	156.8	159.5

DEPARTURES

15	Belgrade (JU)
20	Frankfurt (LH)
40	Aqaba (RJ)
40	Moscow (RJ)
40	Larnaca, London (BA)
40	Vienna, New York (RJ)
45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
50	London (RJ)
50	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
55	Paris (RJ)
55	Rome (RJ)
55	Istanbul (RJ)
55	Cairo (MS)
55	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
55	Cairo (RJ)
55	Kuwait (KU)
55	Kuwait (RJ)
15	Jeddah (RJ)
15	Baghdad (IA)
15	Baghdad (RJ)
15	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
15	Abu Dhabi, Doha

WEATHER

It will be fine, with the appearance of low clouds and northwesterly moderate winds. In Aquaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

Amman	1526
Damascus	2023
Desert	1429
Jordan Valley	2032

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 25. Aqaba 49. Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 31

EIB extends \$6.3m loan for industrial complexes

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Community (EC's) European Investment Bank (EIB) has announced that it has provided Jordan with a loan of \$6.3 million to contribute towards the establishment of an industrial complex near Amman.

In a statement the bank issued on Thursday, the EIB said that the loan, valued at 6.5 million ECU's (European Currency Units) will

be repaid over a period of 12 years with an interest rate of 4.8 per cent. The loan has been granted to the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

The bank has also granted a loan of \$7.8 million to the JIEC to be used for stage I of an industrial complex project near Amman. The project aims to provide a new location for existing industries and will also attract new industries.

WFP to assist rangeland development programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) will grant Jordan \$3.64 million to assist the Kingdom in carrying out a project for the development of rangeland and to increase meat production, according to Mr. Kamal Tadros, head of the rangeland department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Tadros made the announcement after returning to Amman from a visit to Rome where he attended the WFP's two-week meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

He said that Jordan, in cooperation with the WFP, will be carrying out the project which entails the development of 140,000 dunums of land and the drilling of artesian wells to obtain water required for the project, which will take nearly five years to implement.

Work on the project will start in October and the Ministry of Agriculture plans to spend \$7.441 million on the programme, Mr. Tadros said. He said that this sum will be spent on planting trees and shrubs on an area of 110,000 dunums and on drilling 40 artesian

wells. In addition, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation will plant shrubs and prepare pastures on 30,000 dunums of land, Mr. Tadros added.

Earlier, he said, the Ministry of Agriculture planted shrubs and tree saplings on 33,000 dunums of pasture land while agricultural cooperatives planted 33,000 others and grew fodder on another 60,000 dunums.

The ministry has also established a special \$1 million fund to offer loans to stock breeders and to help them increase meat production in Jordan, Mr. Tadros continued. According to Mr. Tadros, WFP's assistance will be used for covering food aid and related external transportation costs.

A WFP press release said that the project will improve rangeland by turning marginal land into productive grazing land and that the food aid will be used as an incentive for workers to participate in the project.

In addition to this project, the level of WFP's assistance to Jordan as of December 31, 1985 consisted of 23 completed projects at a total cost of approximately \$72 million, and three operational projects at a total cost of approximately \$33 million.

W. Germany to provide further aid to Jordan

BONN (KUNA) — Jordan will obtain development loans totalling DM 35 million in addition to other aid valued at DM 15 million from West Germany within the framework of financial and technical cooperation accord between the two countries.

Agreement on the assistance from West Germany was reached in Bonn at the end of Jordanian-West German economic talks which culminated in the signing of a protocol for cooperation under which Jordan will obtain the funds.

By extending financial and technical assistance to Jordan, the West German government aims to continue its support for the development efforts which Jordan is making in various fields, a spokesman for the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation said. He added that cooperation with Jordan will remain one of the major pillars of West Germany's policy in the fields of cooperation and assistance for development projects.

The major portion of these new loans will be allocated for stage II of the Agaba Thermal Power Station in the southern region.

Within the framework of technical cooperation between the two countries, the Bonn government has also agreed to send German experts to Jordan to contribute towards the preparation of some agricultural development projects in the Zarqa region and the Jordan Valley and to the development of the Kingdom's livestock sector.

Under this protocol, West Germany will also contribute to the implementation of a series of projects in the fields of vocational rehabilitation and the development of providing drinking water to the population.



Students contemplate their exam papers during the first session of this year's tawjihi and secondary admission examinations.

Tawjihi, secondary admission exam session gets underway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 6,000 teachers will embark on the process of marking examination papers taken by tawjihi and preparatory students and the marking will start on June 23, according to Mr. Ahmad Al Taqi, the director of examinations at the Ministry of Education.

He said that nearly 50,000 male and female students are now sitting for the tawjihi examination in addition to approximately 545,000 others who are sitting for the secondary stage admission exams which follow the preparatory stage at the end of the 1985/86 scholastic year.

Of the tawjihi students, 29,348 male and female students are sitting for the literary stream, 14,525 for the scientific stream, 3,544 for the commercial stream, 83 for the agricultural stream, 1,803 for the

industrial stream, 289 for nursing, 235 for the postal stream and 94 for the hotel stream.

The examinations, which started on Thursday, are being taken in 747 halls around the country, and are due to be completed by June 19.

According to Mr. Taqi, students who are sick are taking the examinations in hospitals whilst others are doing the papers in reformatory institutions. But, he said, the ministry has taken all the necessary precautions to ensure that the examinations are held in a comfortable atmosphere.

On Thursday, directors of education in Amman and various governorates paid inspection visits to examination halls and ministry sources said that everything was proceeding as scheduled.

Road accidents in Irbid, Karak claim two lives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people were killed and three others were injured in different road accidents which occurred in Irbid and Karak over the past two days. One of the accidents occurred near Taibeh, in Karak Governorate, and involved a pickup truck. The accident resulted in the death of the driver.

Mohammad Suleiman, and the injury of another passenger riding next to him.

In Irbid's Al Barha district, a 36-year-old man was killed when he was knocked down by a bus. Investigations into the accident are continuing, according to local press reports.

Essebsi: Iraq-Syria reconciliation is vital to success of Arab efforts

(Continued from page 1)

a policy of non-interference in internal affairs of liberation movements in general," he said, "although we support the PLO within our capabilities."

He said that Tunisia agreed to receive the Palestinian fighters who were evacuated from Beirut in 1982 and from Tripoli, northern Lebanon in 1983. "We have never interfered in their decision-

making, and I have to say, they never interfered in our internal affairs."

However, he added, "for reasons related to their struggle, the PLO leadership has decided to transfer their forces to other countries while maintaining their political department in Tunisia." He stressed that Tunisia "did not ask them to do so," but added that "we also did not make a move to stop them."

The PLO evacuated its fighters from the Qued Zarga military camp, which is about 60 kilometres west of Tunis.

Expressing concern over the Gulf war, Mr. Essebsi said the Arabs "have a commitment to Iraq in accordance with the Arab League Charter." He said the Arabs "under the same charter, have a commitment towards Libya as well as every Arab country facing aggression."

Discussing regional problems facing Tunisia, Mr. Essebsi said that the economic depression facing Maghreb countries were exacerbated by the entry of Spain and Portugal to the European Community (EC). "This made marketing products of Maghreb countries much more difficult," he said, adding that a Maghreb unity could be the answer to the economic problems. He remarked, however, that he did not expect a Maghreb unity in the foreseeable future.

Commenting on Tunisia's role as the country hosting the headquarters of the Arab League, Mr. Essebsi said that his country "never interfered in the functions of the league apart from offering assistance as a host country."

He said his government "never tried to pressure the Arab League to adopt a certain policy as was the case when Egypt hosted the league."

King congratulates Waldheim

(Continued from page 1)

Before entering the clinic in Ohio, Queen Noor on Wednesday inaugurated an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional industries organised by the Queen Noor Foundation in cooperation with the International Save the Children Fund at the Jordanian Embassy premises in Washington.

Queen Noor delivered a speech on the occasion, outlining Jordan's efforts in the area of child care and preparing the future generation to its play role in serving Jordan and contributing to the Kingdom's progress and prosperity.

The King's talks with President Reagan and other administration officials centred an efforts for Middle East peace. An American official told reporters after the King's meeting with Mr. Reagan on Monday that the administration would study suggestions made by the King on means to reactivate efforts for a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

In an interview published in Wednesday's issue of the Washington Post, the King referred to the U.S. decision earlier this year to shelve a proposal to sell advanced weapons to Jordan and noted that the American move came after 30 years of strong U.S.-Jordanian military relations. Asked to comment on the

King's remarks, State Department deputy spokesman Bernard Kalb said last Wednesday:

"For more than 30 years, the United States and Jordan have worked together, forging enduring ties of trust, respect and friendship."

"These years have witnessed both setbacks and achievements, but throughout these three decades our two countries have come to understand and rely upon each other," the spokesman said. "Whatever the disappointments of recent months, the United States is encouraged by King Hussein's determination to pursue our common goal — a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

In another development, the Los Angeles Times reported on Thursday that Secretary of State Shultz has concluded that the prospects for peace in the Middle East are so dim that it would be pointless for him to visit the region this month.

Mr. Shultz's decision, made after an intense two-week study, became clear Wednesday when the State Department announced that he will travel to South-East Asia next week but will bypass the Middle East. Spokesman Kalb said that Mr. Shultz will leave Washington on June 20 for a 10-day trip to Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and the Palau Islands.

Irbid candidates refocus on campaign

(Continued from page 1)

election law, a candidate should submit his resignation from any government post prior to running for a seat in the Lower House of Parliament.

Mr. Amin did not say who filed the lawsuit against Mr. Obaidat or why it was withdrawn. Sources said the court did not consider the ICO as a government institution. Only seven candidates are currently competing for the single vacant seat at the House following the decision on Thursday by Mr. Mahmoud Miqdadi to pull out from the race. Mr. Miqdadi, who did not cite reasons for his decision, was not immediately available for comment.

The seven candidates are Mohammad Baahir Ghazzawi, Sulaiman Ajlomi, Jamal Obaidat, Abdul-Majeed Nuseir, Ibrahim Abu Saleem Jaradat, Anwar Shbouh and Yousef Alawneh.

Mr. Amin has announced that all measures have been taken to guarantee a free and fair by-election. Committees entrusted with organising the polls and the vote count have already been established, he said.

Nearly 140,000 are registered voters in Irbid Governorate. Most candidates expect a high turnout for voting which will take place in 207 polling centres distributed all over the governorate.

Dr. Nuseir is considered one of

the favourites to win the June 19 elections to fill the seat left vacant after the death of Irbid deputy Naim Al Tal earlier this year. Dr. Nuseir said his election programme was based on his realisation that the Palestine cause is the cause of the whole Arab Nation. He said Palestine "can be liberated by those who are dedicated to God and are ready to prepare for struggle."

Dr. Nuseir said that mosques and the media complement the Kingdom's educational process that should be run independently by enlightened and dedicated people. He said he would be working towards restoring the dignity of the citizen and guarantee his future and the future of his family.

Born in Al Husn in 1941, Dr. Nuseir holds a doctorate degree in mathematics. He is a member of the Jordan Arabic Language Academy, the Iraqi Science Academy and a founding member of the Society for Islamic Studies and Research. He worked as a teacher of mathematics in universities in Jordan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He was one of the founders of Yarmouk University and its first director of student affairs. He established the computer centre at the university.

Dr. Nuseir is also a mosque preacher, a writer, poet and author of about 25 scientific and historical

books. Dr. Shbouh, also born in Al Husn in 1940, said that his election programme was based on providing answers to questions put forward by his constituents. He said if he is elected he will work towards strengthening the Armed Forces and the citizen's preparedness to defend the country. He said he would be calling for more support for citizens in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories to enable them to defend their soil until victory.

Dr. Shbouh said the Jordanian economy should be revived by focusing on priorities like supporting the agricultural sector and increasing assistance to farmers in the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Obaidat said he would be working towards providing higher education for all citizens seeking to study. He said professional training in the Kingdom should be reoriented so as to respond to the needs of the country. He pledged support for women's rights and stressed the need for establishing an agricultural policy based on scientific studies and research. He said he was in favour of reducing imports and achieving food security.

Mr. Obaidat said that in accordance with the Constitution, there should be more work towards guaranteeing basic democratic freedoms.

Jordan criticises ILO report for failure to tackle Israeli measures against Arab workers

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has criticised a report dealing with the conditions of Arab labourers in the occupied Arab territories and which was submitted to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) by a special commission which recently toured the region.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, delivering Jordan's address to the ILO conference in Geneva, said that the report failed to expose in detail Israel's atrocities and arbitrary measures against Arab labourers and labour unions and did not fully tackle Israel's settlement policy which, he said, was detrimental to Arab labourers and aims at expelling Arabs from their homeland.

Jordan appreciates the endeavours of the ILO director general in this concern and the way he has followed up issues pertaining to Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories but the report on the situation in the occupied territories does not paint an accurate picture of the bitter and deteriorating situation there," the minister said.

The report, he added, should have pointed out the continued Israeli measures which cause unemployment among Arabs and should also have tackled the issues of detention, house arrest and Israeli violations of human rights.

The minister voiced Jordan's hope that the mission's proposed report for the coming year will

give fuller details and a deeper insight into the painful conditions under which the people of the occupied territories live.

In his address, Mr. Haj Hassan said that Israel's colonial policies are negatively affecting the living conditions of Arab labourers in general and he noted that the establishment of Israeli settlements on confiscated Arab land has resulted in a reduced area of Arab land being used for farming. Israel has now seized nearly three million dunums of land, or more than 53 per cent of the occupied West Bank, since it occupied the territory in the 1967 war, the minister continued.

Last year alone, Israel seized 85,506 dunums on the West Bank and established 14 colonies on this land in addition to another two in the Gaza Strip, to make the total number of Israeli settlements 242 since 1967, the minister added.

He said that the number of Arab labourers working in Israeli economic sectors has dropped from 90,000 in 1984 to 68,000 in 1985 and he added that these workers have no protection whatsoever and are subject to blackmail and extortion.

Arab labourers under Israeli rule are exposed to racial discrimination in employment and vocational training, are underpaid and enjoy no social security or any form of protection, the minister explained.

In addition, he said, the Israeli authorities are going ahead with plans to seize more Arab water resources and are banning Arabs from drilling artesian wells on their own land for their own pro-

jects. Also, Israel is charging very high prices for water purchased by Arabs for irrigation purposes, he said.

The minister pointed out that heavy taxes are imposed on Arab businesses, workshops and small industries which, he said, has led to bankruptcy for many.

He cited as an example the district electricity companies of Jerusalem and Nablus which, he said, Israel plans to seize in order to control power supplies to Arab territories. Israel plans to destroy all Arab establishments, forcing an Arab exodus, the minister said.

Mr. Haj Hassan also referred to the Gulf war and the adverse effects it has been having on the social and economic life of the whole Middle East region. He appealed to the ILO conference to issue a call for ending the conflict which, he said, is causing untold tragedies and sufferings as well as sapping the region's resources and endangering world peace.

The minister also denounced racial discrimination policies exercised by South Africa against the black population and called these actions "brutal and arbitrary." He said that the Pretoria regime has been carrying out a war of genocide against innocent blacks. Jordan, he said, supports all calls for ending South Africa's apartheid policy and the occupation of Namibia.

With reference to the drought and famine in Africa, the minister said that Jordan is deeply concerned over the situation and has been contributing towards alleviating the sufferings of the African people, especially the people of Sudan. He also referred to endeavours in this respect conducted through the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which is co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan.

JEA completes overhead line project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Aqaba-Amman 400kv overhead line transmission project was completed on time earlier this month, marking the beginning of a new stage in Jordan's power supply network, the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has announced.

The JD 9.5 million project involves 324 kilometres of 400kv double circuit lines. The JEA started work on the project in early 1984 and completed it on schedule, a JEA spokesman said.

The new overhead line will form the nucleus of the national grid across the country as well as establish links with neighbouring Arab states, the spokesman continued.

The line, which runs between the Aqaba Thermal Power Station under construction and the JEA's load centre substation in Amman south, is a vital link for power supply to the capital and northern regions of the Kingdom.

It is expected that initially the line will be operated at 132kv despite the higher capacity of the double circuit line, the first 400kv line in the Kingdom. It will operate in full capacity by the end of the 1988 when the second stage of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station is expected to be completed and fully operational. The first stage of the station is scheduled to be ready soon, the JEA has indicated.

Part of the cost of the 400kv project was in the form of a British grant of £3 million and a £10 million loan arranged by the Balfour Beatty group of Britain through their merchant bankers J. Henry Schroder Wagg of London. Balfour Beatty was awarded the contract for supplying and erecting the towers for the overhead line. The remaining £5 million of the original £19 million project was provided by the Saudi Fund for Development.

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All interested Jordanian importers are cordially invited to make business contacts with the concerned exporters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
— Amman Marriott Hotel Tel: 660100 Att.: Mr. Aulia Danussalam
— Indonesian Embassy Tel: 675911

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Planning for our children

MORE than 100,000 students from the secondary and preparatory stages are now taking an examination which will decide their future. More students are taking the same examination on the West Bank and many others studying in universities here and abroad are taking higher examinations before they graduate. We wish all these students success. Jordan has been keen on educating its children at all levels and has opened for them many schools, community colleges and universities. But it is indeed time for Jordan to look further now towards a real improvement of its educational system and the techniques and methods used in educating its children. Plans should be laid down now for training its young people in fields that can best serve this country's future and Jordan's development projects, especially in the light of the technological advances and educational progress witnessed in other countries. We really should plan ahead for our children on sound basis because we want them to serve not as a liability but rather as an asset for their country and nation.

Al Dustour: Arab reconciliation

KING HUSSEIN has affirmed that the foreign ministers of Iraq and Syria will meet shortly to discuss reconciliation between their two countries and the removing of obstacles still impeding joint Arab action. This good news from the King in a statement to the Washington Post coincides with relentless efforts on the part of the Arab League for holding an Arab summit meeting preceded by an Arab foreign ministers conference to pave the way for a successful outcome and positive results. Needless to say the Iraqi-Syrian meeting constitutes a very significant event in Arab history, and is designed to prepare the ground for such a summit. We realise that Baghdad and Damascus still differ on a host of issues, but we also realise that the challenges and the threats confronting us are of concern to both states and the Arab nation as a whole. Therefore all efforts should be made to bring the two countries together and to bring about an Arab reconciliation.

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Bringing together Syria and Iraq

FRIDAY foreign ministers of Syria and Iraq met together to discuss reconciliation between the two countries, the first step towards the long hoped-for goal of solidarity among Arab states. This long-awaited meeting comes at a time when the common enemy is persisting in plans designed to dominate the whole Arab region, obliterating its original identity and casting doubt on the future of the Arab people in this region of the world. The conspiracies of our enemy and the common threat confronting our nation make it incumbent on us to meet and strengthen our position and rally our ranks. Therefore, we look forward to a fruitful outcome to this meeting which would end differences between the two brotherly countries for good. The meeting is the result of relentless endeavours by King Hussein, who has devoted his life to serving all Arabs. We hope this meeting will open up a new chapter in inter-Arab relations and pave the way for an Arab summit of all Arab leaders.

Al Dustour: Seeking Syrian help

NOW that the Lebanese crisis has become so chronic and fighting intensified on all fronts the leaders of the warring factions have once again decided to seek the mediation and good offices of Damascus. The urgent contacts they are making with the Syrian capital are designed to bring about an end to the civil strife and find a formula to end the factional war in Lebanon. The leaders of the Muslim factions who arrived in Damascus for a meeting Thursday hope to get assistance in this endeavour because they obviously failed to find a way of ending their internal disputes and conflicts by themselves. What is required now seems to be a stronger Syrian stand and a more effective Syrian role to bring an end to the sufferings of the Lebanese people. The on-going fighting around the camps in Beirut is a strong proof that these warring factions have lost all values and principles, and are now deeply involved in a quagmire they cannot save themselves from by their own power. Therefore Syria is called on to end the crisis and end the mass suicidal action being committed by the Lebanese against themselves and against others.

Sawt Al Shaab: A victory for the Arab nation

A historic meeting which was held Friday between Syria and Iraq lays the ground for a larger and more important meeting between Arab heads of state. An Arab summit should be prepared for and joint Arab moves should be well-planned if the outcome is to be successful. The Arabs can achieve success in their diplomatic efforts world-wide only if they are united and their position is strong. The Arabs cannot confront their enemies and thwart their plans and conspiracies unless they are united and their differences are removed. For this reason Jordan has carried out its mediation between Baghdad and Damascus and for this reason King Hussein has exerted all his efforts to serve the Arab cause. We hope for a successful meeting between the two sides, and we look forward toward a united Arab front, capable of aborting all enemy plots and saving the Arab nation from further aggression and further tragedies. The meeting is not only a success for Jordanian diplomacy but a victory for the Arab nation as a whole.

A hidden issue: trade costs of U.S. support for Israel

Dr. Thomas Stauffer, adjunct professor of economics at Georgetown University, presented the following remarks to a March 14 conference in Toledo, Ohio which was organised around the theme of "U.S.-Arab Relations: The Political and Economic Implications for the United States of lost trade opportunities in the Middle East occurring as a result of its one-sided policy of near-complete support for the state of Israel. This paper first appeared in the Spring 1986 edition of American-Arab Affairs.

MY TOPIC today is one dimension of the inter-dependence between the Middle East and the United States, i.e., the trade links between the United States and the Arab World. And in particular I want to talk about the implications of U.S. policies in the Middle East for American jobs at home.

This is the economic dimension of U.S. political policy, and it is often so easily overlooked — even though millions of Americans are in fact directly and dramatically affected — namely, their jobs, or those of their parents or relatives, are at stake. The bottom line is quite clear: as a direct result of U.S. policies in the Middle East, U.S. workers lose jobs and ironically and paradoxically the Soviets win hard currency, so that the United States loses "coming and going." Given the present circumstances and the policies of this government, this might seem indeed paradoxical since the Reagan administration stresses both protection of employment and sanctions against the Soviets. Yet its policies in the Middle East cost U.S. jobs while benefitting the Soviets. It does seem strange that events in the Middle East could impact so directly upon us — the Middle East is indeed remote. Most of my students at Harvard, for example, couldn't find a single Middle Eastern country on a map. The Middle East is remote, but events there do have direct repercussions upon all of us in this country today.

Some of these repercussions are dramatic — for example, as a consequence of several prior Arab-Israeli wars, oil prices were driven up, which came right out of our own pocketbooks. In 1973, moreover, still another dramatic impact took place. President Nixon decided to send \$2.2 billion in special military aid to the Israelis, and as a direct consequence of that decision the Arab countries imposed an oil embargo against the United States. As a consequence of that oil embargo, we lost somewhere between \$100 and \$300 billion of our GDP — Mr. Nixon's decision to back the Israelis cost something like 1 to 6 million man-years of American employment.

There are other linkages — between U.S. politics in the Middle East and U.S. jobs — which are less dramatic than these, but which nonetheless are very real. We have also lost export markets and thus have lost export jobs because of our political posture in the Middle East. One obvious victim of this posture has been the market for Jeeps — manufactured here in the Toledo area, drawing upon parts and supplies throughout the Middle West. One sees a lot of Land Rovers made by British Leyland on Middle East highways today, or Land Cruisers from Toyota. But one sees very few Jeeps. Because of pressures

imposed by New York bankers years ago, Jeep is still boycotted in most Arab States, and Toledo has lost a major market.

The Middle East market

The Middle East market, in spite of our political posture, is still large. Currently it accounts for some \$20-plus billion of exports, and an estimated additional \$10 billion in services purchased from the United States. The Middle East alone, therefore, accounts for 10 to 12 per cent of our total exports — a volume which in this day and age is not to be sneezed at. About 750,000 American jobs are directly at stake today in the Middle East. But the direct employment understates what is at risk because the indirect jobs are excluded. If General Motors exports a car to Saudi Arabia, for example — it is one of the few markets left for "Detroit iron" — there are jobs at GM. But that job at GM also creates a number of jobs elsewhere throughout the system for GM suppliers and sub-suppliers, sub-contractors and sub-sub-contractors. Thus, when all is said and done we find that something like 3 million Americans directly and consequently have their livelihoods tied to our present trade with the Middle East.

It is therefore interesting and important to look at our trade performance in the Middle East. Three million Americans today are dependent upon that trade, but there are still at least another one million Americans who have already lost jobs because of the politicisation of this trade.

We can measure our losses if we look at the American exporters' share of the Middle East market as compared with our share of export markets more generally. For years the United States has enjoyed about one-sixth of all world trade. This fraction has been remarkably stable, so that a quick litmus test of U.S. performance in the Middle East is our share of that trade. We find that U.S.-Middle East trade is sharply polarised; it falls into three quite distinct categories, which can be classified with respect to our political relations.

First, we have a class of favoured customers, customers who are accommodating, customers who buy heavily from us. At the moment that class has dwindled to one — the Saudis. Compared with 16 per cent of world markets, we enjoy slightly more than 20 per cent of the Saudi market. This is one area, for example, where automobile importers complain that the Saudi market is too small — the last such market alive, I guess. The Saudi market is an important market for us, worth several billion dollars a year, and it's a privileged market because of the political relations that have survived to date.

But the second category is less encouraging for us. This is a market in which we are disfavoured, a market in which the United States is not accommodated. This is a market in which Americans have lost a lot of jobs. These are the countries which are polarised against us, so that our trade has suffered.

The Iranian example

Let me take Iran as a first example because it highlights so many features of this politicisation of trade. Today we export scarcely \$100 million a year to Iran even though Iran is a \$15 billion market. We take out only 1 per cent of that market, compared with the more typical 16 per cent. We should be selling somewhere between \$3 and \$3.5 billion per year there — instead, it's a mere \$100 million. The political problems vis-à-vis Iran are obvious, and we don't need to belabour them. But we must note that this poor trade performance in Iran exemplifies and highlights the very close correlation between our political posture and our employment opportunities.

"Trade follows the flag" today, just as in the days of Cecil Rhodes in South Africa. If we compare U.S. trade with pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary Iran, we see this linkage painfully clearly. Before the revolution the United States enjoyed better than 20 per cent of the Iranian market. Now it's down to one per cent. The United States has lost \$3 billion in exports to Iran alone, which translates into a loss of about 300,000 jobs in that one market over the past six years. Iran has been a market for American goods of all kinds — agricultural products from the Midwest, machinery from the East Coast, and aerospace products from California, Texas, or indeed through the network of sub-contractors — from everywhere in the industrial United States.

Unfortunately, the Iranian case is not an isolated one. There are four more major markets in the Middle East where for political reasons U.S. exports fare quite poorly: Algeria, Libya, Syria and Iraq. These are the four countries most actively opposed to our identification with the Israelis, and a direct consequence of that identification is our loss of market share in these states. The four countries constitute a \$40-billion market. Our lost market is equivalent to about \$4 billion a year, which amounts to another 400,000 jobs, jobs which, again, are associated directly with the politicisation of trade.

The difference between the 16-per cent share of the United States in LDC (less-developed country) markets in general and the small share in the five politicised markets is all too clear. Instead of one-sixth of imports, the U.S. share ranges between 4 per cent (Algeria and Syria) and 7 per cent (Iraq), where every percentage point difference represents lost U.S. jobs and a greater balance-of-payments deficit.

Non-paying customers

Thirdly, I move to the category of non-paying customers — Egypt and Israel. This is the point at which diplomatic arithmetic and business calculus differ. From the point of view of businessmen, increased sales are not frightfully attractive if the customer does not pay. From the perspective of the State Department, however, both Israel and Egypt are attractive "customers" because exports to both are stable or rising, but this is a point upon which state and business, I point out, differ fundamentally.

There are two major examples in the category of non-paying "pseudocustomers." The first is Egypt, and it illustrates clearly how politics distorts trade patterns — there our exports rise, but we don't receive greater revenues because our aid pays the bills, not the Egyptians. Egypt until recently has been the "poor man" in the Middle East. But over the last few years its total imports have risen rapidly, and now Egypt imports about \$3 billion from the United States alone. We have captured almost one-quarter, 25 per cent, of the Egyptian market, which is the largest market share we have in the Middle East; and Egypt is the only country in which the U.S. market share is rising. The hitch is simple: Egypt imports, but does not pay. If we look at our trade with Egypt, that trade has increased but only dollar-for-dollar with the increase in U.S. aid. Egypt "buys" from us, in effect, only what we give them. This is a very clear and rather special and peculiar case of the politicisation of trade.

The second and even more costly example of non-paying customers is Israel. The Israelis buy about 16 per cent of everything that they import from us — which is just about equal to the world average. On the other hand, total U.S. aid to Israel lies between \$4 and \$5 billion a year, so that our massive aid does not translate into any extra trade whatsoever. American aid to Israel is a direct loss of U.S. jobs — our aid is used by the Israelis to buy from Japan and Germany or Italy — everywhere, except from America.

The U.S. economic relationship with Israel is especially costly in terms of American jobs. First of all, the fact that U.S. aid is *de facto* not tied to U.S. goods translates into a loss of about 300,000 jobs a year, directly and indirectly. A further cost to U.S. workers is the special privileges given Israeli exports to the United States, for which the United States does indeed pay — unlike our exports to Israel. The special preferences and broad duty-free status accorded to Israel's exports to the United States result in the loss of still another 50,000 to 100,000 jobs — an arrangement peculiar to Israel and not affecting other Middle East exports to the United States.

A discouraging balance sheet

The political balance sheet can be drawn and is indeed discouraging; U.S. trade in the Mid-

dle East has clearly suffered from politicisation:

- only one good customer remains: Saudi Arabia;
- five major cash-paying markets have been progressively lost: Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria;
- two non-paying pseudocustomers remain, i.e. the two aid-dependent economies: Egypt and Israel.

The causes of this politicisation are neither new nor simple. Here we focus on the consequences rather than the source, but we can take one concrete case from last October to illustrate the political mechanics. The Saudis had wished to purchase about \$4 billion worth of F-14s and related hardware, and were ready to pay. This sale was successfully blocked by the Israeli lobby, which mustered enough votes in Congress so that the proposal in fact was dropped. The Saudis then turned to the U.K. for the \$4 billion contract, buying Tornados rather than American F-14s, and then added another \$3 billion in follow-on and related services. In that one contract alone the United States lost \$7 billion, which is the equivalent of 350,000 to 700,000 American jobs.

Most of the impediments to U.S. trade are more diffuse, but linked to U.S.-Israeli-Arab relations. Most are related to the Arab boycott of Israel and the U.S. anti-boycott legislation, which in turn affects why Toledo, for example, doesn't export Jeeps to the Arab World on any scale. I remember one very large \$1.5 billion contract that I was involved in, in which the unwritten specification stipulated by the minister was very simple: there was to be no component whatsoever from the United States, lest the contract be interrupted by domestic political groups in the United States. No part could be bought from the United States if it could be bought anywhere else in the world. The politicisation of U.S. trade in the Middle East because of American policy has been expensive. The first element is the forfeited trade, the trade opportunities which we have lost whether through foregone, blocked cash arms sales to the Saudis or through U.S. constraints on trade with Iran, Iraq and the other increasingly reluctant customers. This loss is now at least 400,000 jobs and more likely some 700,000 jobs. Secondly, because of the peculiarities of our aid arrangement with the Israelis, another quarter of a million jobs have been lost or exported. And so, we're talking about 650,000 jobs, at a minimum, but it is more likely that almost a million American jobs have been lost purely due to political postures, not because of lack of competitiveness. American workers have lost seriously. Over one-tenth of total American unemployment today is attributable to lost job opportunities in the Middle East — thanks to U.S. politics.

The winners are obviously our trading partners, the British, who won out on the Tornado deal, the Japanese, and other European exporters to the Middle East, or

the Israelis — in the case of our special arrangements, above.

But the least expected winner economically is the Soviet Union. There's a proverb in the Middle East: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," a passive political role which the Soviets play and exploit in the Middle East. They capitalise upon the U.S. identification with Israel, so that the hard-line states, the states committed to the conflict against the Israelis, end up as major customers of the Soviet Union, not out of choice but by default. The United States will not sell, even for cash, to countries confronting Israel, so the Soviets capture this extremely lucrative cash market at our expense and to their benefit. We have in effect created remarkable economic opportunities for the Soviet Union in the Middle East, and it's doubly ironic that it's President Reagan's administration which has actually compounded this critical Soviet gain.

The importance of this to the Soviets is rather straightforward but nonetheless surprising. Opportunities for the Soviets to get into hard-currency markets are very limited. Their equipment tends to be poor quality and out-moded — not terribly expensive but also not very good. Their backup and service are even worse than that of the U.S. Post Office, to put it in a homely but awesome perspective. But the Soviets win by default as long as we are polarised as we are. I emphasise that these arms sales into the Middle East by the Soviets today generate about one-half of their total foreign exchange earnings except for oil and gas. It's "big bucks" for them, and the opportunities opened to the USSR by U.S. policies in the Middle East are some of their very few opportunities to earn much-needed hard currency, since the customers they won by default do pay in cash and usually in hard currency or its equivalent. Politics makes strange bedfellows, and Middle Eastern politics makes for bizarre bedfellows. It is paradoxical but true that it's the Reagan Administration and the Israelis who in fact have contributed so greatly to Soviet gains in the area.

Let me conclude by noting again that the economic stakes in the Middle East are large. About a million and a half American jobs are still directly tied to the Middle East, which means that three million Americans, including dependents, are tied to this trade. As a result of the U.S. political posture, we have already lost another million jobs, i.e. some \$10-15 billion in exports and services.

Is this important? Do these jobs and these trade opportunities matter? That becomes a matter of perspective. There was a joke during the Carter administration, I believe, about the definition of a recession: "A recession is when you lose your job — a depression is when I lose mine." This forum today is, I think, witness to the fact that we do believe that these trade relations and these jobs are important, and we must endeavor to ensure that still more U.S. jobs are not sacrificed.

Despite ordeal of West Germans, volunteers offer services to Nicaragua

By Mary Powers

Reuter

NEW YORK — Americans sympathetic to the Sandinista government in Nicaragua are still volunteering to work in the Central American nation despite the capture of eight West Germans by U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

"We have about 30 people who are dying to go," said Irving Wolf, a member of the Nicaraguan construction brigade.

He told Reuters that a group of 12 Americans has just returned from a five-week stint in Nicaragua and two are due to go later this summer.

Other brigades from cities around the country are going to Nicaragua, he said.

The brigades are similar to the one in which the eight West Germans were working when they were abducted on May 17 by U.S.-backed rebels in the village of Jacinto Baca, about 250 kilometres east of the capital Managua.

The West Germans were released Tuesday night by the rebels minutes after a ceasefire proclaimed by the Sandista government had expired.

Wolf, a 73-year-old retired businessman, had just returned to Managua from a farming cooperative in northern Nicaragua when he learned of the abduction of the West Germans.

"I was horrified. It doesn't look too good for president Reagan. He's always talking about terrorism and everything his freedom fighters do is terrorism," he said.

"I was angry and embarrassed by my government," brigade member Tom Hansen, a 32-year-old carpenter, said of the kidnapping.

"They (the Contras) have killed

a lot of internationalists but they've never killed an American. It shows they know who's paying their bills," said Hansen.

He was referring to U.S. support for the rebels who have been fighting to overthrow the left-wing Sandinista government.

Carole Ashley, a 42-year-old British translator who lives in New York, said: "This is not the first time foreigners have been captured or killed. It's clear that foreigners are fair game for the Contras."

Two members of the Americans' group decided to stay on to form another brigade, representing over 20 countries, to replace the West Germans in Jacinto Baca.

Cyril Linton, a 29-year-old stone carver, said when he learned of the abduction of the West Germans: "I immediately thought that it could have been me."

The group complained that they had read very little in U.S. newspapers about the capture of the West Germans. "When foreigners are captured in the Middle East there is a lot of coverage," Ashley said.

"There's been a lot of discussion about the aid to the Contras but there has been very little coming out about how the Nicaraguan people are suffering from the war," she added.

President Reagan has campaigned hard to get \$100 million in aid for the Contras. The Congress is due to vote on the package later this month.

The rebels have accused the volunteers of helping the Sandinistas establish a totalitarian government in Nicaragua.

"We go down to Nicaragua with a hammer and saw to help the Nicaraguan people. We are not trying to install any kind of system in Nicaragua," Hansen said.



Ras Burka killings remain a mystery

By Benny Morris

THE Egyptian soldier who shot at Israeli tourists at Ras Burka last year, killing and wounding several of them, Sergeant Suleiman Mohammed Abdel Hamid Khater, suffered from "acute nervousness resulting from depression ... and pathological fears, especially of darkness and the sight of blood, with a tendency to dissociate from external reality." But he was "not insane or retarded or epileptic and must be regarded as responsible for his actions," according to expert testimony given before the Egyptian court that tried him.

A brain scan done on Khater after the murders found that he had "a frontal focus on the side of the left lobe" — meaning that he had a small tumour or area of calcification, possibly a result of a blow suffered years before. But the doctors saw "no connection between (this) and (Khater's) willpower or capacity to distinguish (between good and evil)."

This was the diagnosis of the psychiatric board of examiners at the Al Suez Military Hospital and doctors at the Al Ma'adi Military Hospital who checked Khater some two weeks after he had murdered seven Israeli tourists on a hill at Ras Burka on the Gulf of Elilat coast on October 5, 1985.

According to the testimony of his comrades-in-arms from the Central Security Police, Khater was "well-mannered" and "civil," and was "not extreme or fanatic," though he did tell his commander, Major Ahmed Kamal ad-Din Al-Sheikh, "that the strangers (i.e. tourists) used to come to the site) naked, which contradicted the Islamic faith."

These facts and testimony are included in the 51-page transcript of the "Judgement in the Name of the People" delivered on December 28, 1985 by the Supreme Military Court — Special Branch, which sentenced Khater to life imprisonment with hard labour. Khater was subsequently found dead in his cell, either a victim of suicide or murder.

And contrary to initial reports published in Israel, five of the seven victims — Hamam Shalah, Dima Be'er, Tami Shalah, Ofri Turel and Ilana Shalah — had received severe injuries and died of them in less than an hour. The two other victims — Anita Griffl and Amir Baum — were less severely injured and died of loss of blood. According to the report, Egyptian medical staff and officers reached the victims between 75 and 90 minutes after the shootings. Khater, according to the report, helped carry the victims "to the bottom of the hill and afterwards into the refrigerator in Nueibah."

Khater, who fired two magazines of bullets (49 cartridges were found) in the shooting spree, behaved "well and normally" when disarmed and taken into custody, according to Egyptian witnesses. He maintained that, when he was shooting, he knew that the victims were "strangers" but did not know that they were Israelis.

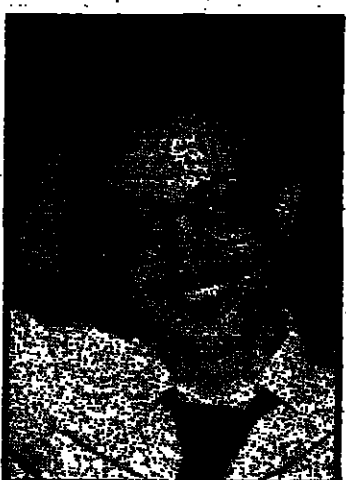
The court gave Khater the life sentence rather than death, which is common in Egypt for such crimes, because, according to the judgement, "in the offender's heart there was no base motive ... Moreover, it became clear to the court that his work conditions in the remote desert region exacerbated his depressed state ... The court took into account (also) ... that the victims, though they had not harmed or insulted (Khater) or his country or any other person ... had indeed climbed up to his position without need and despite the fact that the area they were allowed to move in was restricted to the Gulf of Aqaba beach ... Therefore, they contributed to (Khater's) ire to a degree that pushed him to hastiness when he found himself confronting three adults and nine children playing while dressed in bathing suits."

The court also took Khater's youth and "his expressions of remorse," into account.

In passing judgement and sentence, the court, while attributing deliberation to Khater's crime, declined to identify the motive for his actions.

— The Jerusalem Post

Congratulations, Dr. Waldheim



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

IN 1972, Kurt Waldheim, then an ex-foreign minister of Austria, was elected secretary-general of the United Nations. One would think that to be elected to such a high position with the approval of all the major powers Dr. Waldheim must have undergone extensive security checks. There is no doubt, of course, that he passed that security, and went on to serve 10 years at the helm of the United Nations.

The year 1972 happened to be also a full 27 years after the end of World War II, affording plenty of time for Nazi hunters to bring to surface the name of war criminals. In fact, they have repeatedly done so, and although some were never brought to trial, their names were always known and made available to the public.

What has happened, then, that when Dr. Waldheim decided to run for the presidency of his country, voices suddenly started hol-

lowing that he was a Nazi collaborator? That he was involved indirectly in the killing of Jews?

One is weary of believing in conspiracies in this part of the world, for we are known to always naively attribute our problems to them. But in this case, one simply cannot brush the idea aside. Why is it that in 1986, a full 41 years after the war's end, someone "suddenly" discovers Dr. Waldheim's alleged involvement in Nazi crimes? Why is it that a scrutiny, first by his own country when he started public service there after the war, then practically by the whole world before he became secretary-general of the U.N., did not reveal anything? And why is it that even after all this fuss, nobody has been able to present any concrete evidence to the effect that Dr. Waldheim was actually involved?

Despite this, Dr. Waldheim was elected president of Austria last week. The votes he won could not be wholly attributed to a backlash among Austrians to the Jewish propaganda. While this whole story has certainly helped him, he should not forget he was the front-runner even before the allegations against him ever surfaced.

This is, perhaps, the gist of the matter. Dr. Waldheim was elected because of his record, not as an alleged war criminal, but as an illustrious public servant of his own country, and of the world. The Austrians were wise enough to see this, and to act according to their own conscience, not one that Israel has tried to impose on them.

Thus, it was not a sad day for Austrians, as Israel wants us to believe, when Dr. Waldheim won the elections. When 54 per cent of

the electorate voted favourably for him, I would imagine it was a happy day for Austrians. Perhaps Israel would rather expect the whole world's sadness for its own. Again, it chooses to ignore the recorded facts and rely on its own sense of morality and judgement.

We have not been exposed in the Arab World to the fullest to Israel's masterful and cheap play on the West's sense of guilt for the atrocities committed against Jews in World War II. Unfortunately, we do little more than sit down and watching the Western world literally succumb to Israel's every whim when it comes to this issue lest it is labelled "anti-Semitic".

Never mind all the atrocities committed by the Israelis against Palestinians so long as there is no-one in this case accusing the West of being racist. So much for moral values.

Thus, we see that a country as the U.S. finds itself obliged to quickly respond to Israel's charges by investigating Dr. Waldheim's file, although it had surely done so 14 years ago. It is not quick, however, to announce it has found nothing incriminating, except only to rudely point out that "Dr. Waldheim will not be prevented from entering the U.S." This admission to Israel's psychological terror is unfortunately both a fact and a tragedy for us.

The Arab World, throughout this campaign, has had a relatively muted reaction until Dr. Waldheim's victory. Perhaps the Arabs felt they would harm Dr. Waldheim's cause by overtly supporting him. Thus, Arab newspapers contented themselves by reporting the allegations against him with a rather mild reporting tone of disapproval.

This has all changed with the elections of Dr. Waldheim last week. Newspapers reported the news enthusiastically. Political cartoons showed a triumphant Waldheim over the Israeli lobby.

Arab personalities covering the political spectrum sent telegrams of congratulations, and although his election has doubtful real effects on advancing the Arab cause, there was widespread relief among Arabs that for once, the Jewish lobby did not have its way.

In the coming days, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) will either try to redeem itself by working vehemently to prove its allegations, or try to swallow its defeat and forget the whole thing. Articles will appear no doubt in the Western press accusing Arabs of anti-Semitism, of being warmongers who were elated at the idea of a Jew-killer being elected

president of a Western democracy.

In reality, I dare say this article simply reflects the emotional mood that is presently prevalent in our part of the world. To the Arabs, World War II is of little concern except for the fact that it directly or indirectly helped in the tragedy of Palestine. Their elation comes not in support of atrocities committed against Jews in that war, but rather in the small triumph over the Israeli political machine this election has provided. And so, in congratulating Dr. Waldheim on a well-deserved win, I cannot hide my own elation at the blow this win has given Israel and all of its self-righteous supporters, wherever they might be.

As the world moves on, we tip our hats to you, Dr. Kurt Waldheim. You have made our day.

Oil prospectors smell success in Egypt

The attraction for oil companies of Egypt's Western Desert is that costs of production are relatively low because the find is onshore. There are also hopes of reasonable gas deposits in the deeper basins. Tony Walker writes on signs of a significant strike.

CAIRO — Egypt is on the verge of a significant new oilfield development in its Western Desert, according to oil industry sources who are surprised that the find has attracted little publicity.

Western oil companies are preparing to begin production from the new field, which is 400 kilometres northwest of Cairo on the northern edge of what is known as the Qattara depression. These companies are Phillips, Conoco, and Texas International of the U.S. and Denison Mines of Canada.

"This is a major new play in the Western Desert," a foreign oil company representative said. "The point is that this adds a new dimension to Western Desert petroleum exploration." He said companies are getting "pay" in cretaceous and jurassic rock from 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

The company representative said that, while the discoveries are significant in Egyptian terms where deposits tend to be small and spread out, they cannot be compared with those in the Gulf or in the nearby Libya. However, if initial promise is fulfilled they might in time rival Egypt's main Gulf and Suez fields.

"Oil exploration in the Western Desert began in the mid-1950s. A number of Western companies, including Shell, have mounted extensive exploration efforts without success. It has been only in the past several years that useful discoveries have been made in an

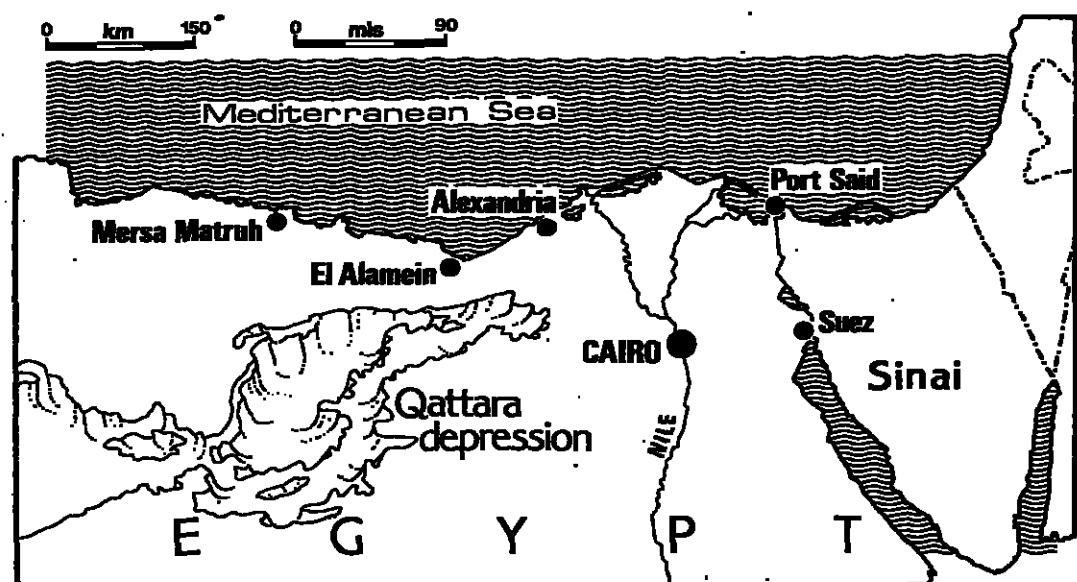
area previously ignored. Conoco last year farmed into leases held by Phoenix of the U.S. a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texas International of Oklahoma City. Conoco agreed to fund exploration and development costs which are expected to be in the order of \$150-160 million in exchange for a half share of Phoenix's leases.

Initial production from Conoco's Khaldia and Salam fields and two smaller deposits could range between 30,000 and 50,000 barrels a day. Denison Mines may have production of some 20,000 barrels a day from its Meleha field and Phillips in the order of 10,000-15,000 barrels a day from its Umbarka deposit.

If these projections prove correct — and company representatives assert that they are preliminary estimates based on a limited drilling programme — the Western Desert could account within several years for more than 10 per cent of Egypt's oil production, which last year averaged 876,591 barrels a day.

Work has begun on a pipeline from Denison Mines' Meleha field 167 kilometres to Hamra, north of Al Alamein, where a north-south pipeline for transshipping oil from a small existing Western Desert field to the southeast of the latest finds.

Conoco and Phillips will build spurs from their fields to connect with the main Meleha to Hamra pipeline. Interscope of France is



constructing the pipeline, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year at a cost of \$35 million.

According to an oil industry representative, the significance of the Western Desert development is that it "opens up a new big potential basin." It was much too early to estimate reserves, he said, but the discoveries would nevertheless give a boost to Egypt's hopes of maintaining reasonable export levels into the 1990s.

Estimates based on existing fields in production are that Egypt would become a net importer of oil by the mid-1990s. If current rates of domestic consumption are maintained at about a 12 to 15 per cent increase per year. An attraction of the Western Desert find for the companies involved is that costs of production

are relatively low because it is an onshore find. "From an oil guy's point of view, operating costs onshore are about one-third of those offshore," a company representative said. "So this is still profitable oil even under today's terrible market conditions." He estimated operating costs at between \$3-5 a barrel, compared with \$12-15 per barrel for North Sea oil.

There are also hopes of reasonable gas deposits in the deeper basins which could be used to provide power for the town of Mersa Matruh on the Mediterranean coast, 60-80 kilometres to the north in an area where the Egyptian government is seeking to encourage tourist development and some light industry. As well, there is the prospect of supplying gas to Alexandria.

A sign of quickening interest in the areas around the Umbarka, Khaldia and Meleha fields is that additional exploration bids put to tender last year were snapped up.

One large bid known as the Kanayis concession went to a consortium including Agip of Italy, B.P. of the U.K., Broken Hill Proprietary of Australia and Idemitsu, the Japanese oil trading company.

Conoco added to its interests with a successful bid on an area adjacent to its present Khaldia discovery. If these exploration zones yield further deposits, the Western Desert, which had proved a disappointment, may live up to the high expectations which oil companies and the Egyptian government have always held for it. Financial Times news feature.

Italy brings millions of illegal flats, villas within the law

Rome has houses which do not exist officially. They were built without planning permission and thus are illegal. James Beckwith chronicles the city's attempts to bring development within the law.

ROME — An extraordinary bureaucratic operation is lumbering into life in Italy. Its aim is the conversion — on paper — of literally millions of illegal homes into legitimate dwellings. At the end of the day, likely to be some time in the early 1990s, much of the wild construction development which has defaced whole areas of Italy in the past 40 years will have been retrospectively both punished and sanctioned.

The operation, the *condono edilizio* or building pardon, should entail every Italian who owns an illegally-built house or flat owning up to the authorities, and getting it approved, against payment of a fine. The number of homes involved could exceed three million and illegal alterations to be pardoned could run into millions more.

According to estimates by the ministry of public works in Rome, more than 1.2 million people had applied for the pardon by the end of March. In some parts of Italy, at least, an extremely complicated and thoroughly unpopular piece of legislation seems to be beginning to work.

To inhabitants of northern Europe, accustomed to diligent local authorities closely controlling every aspect of town and rural planning, it must come as a surprise to discover that perhaps one-third of the population of Rome — about one million people — lives in homes which were constructed without planning permission, in accordance with no urban design.

Whole districts have sprouted spontaneously on the outskirts of the city over the past 35 years. Some of them seem little different from legitimately-built parts of the city but the worst blocks of flats sometimes seem to have been put next to each other completely at random.

Some of the houses are badly built, put up by men working only at night to avoid being caught. Services such as lighting and sewerage more often non-existent. Sheep and goats graze between the blocks. There are hardly any schools and the crime and drug-taking rates are predictably high.

The problem resulted from a collision between an energetic and resourceful population migrating from the countryside and a municipal administration quite unable to cope with the paperwork which its own rules demanded, let alone envisage the scale of future development.

People who wanted to build their own homes, or speculators planning ambitious developments, often went ahead without even thinking of getting permission. It would take far too long, would involve answering far too many awkward questions and the request would very likely be refused.

On several occasions since the war, the city council in Rome has had to enfranchise vast new developments which were previously held not to exist, and put in rudimentary services. But other suburbs remain beyond the pale to this day, and even in those areas which are officially recognised, house-owners are not exempt from the need to seek a pardon for the offence of having built illegally.

Yet, for anyone travelling south, Rome and its suburbs are only a forerunner. Almost the entire coastline from Rome to Calabria is an uninterrupted strip of development, much of it illegal. The periphery of Naples — some of the worst slums in Europe — was built with little regard for planning regulations.

In Sicily, things are even worse: Very little of the construction which has taken place since World War II is technically legal. It is reckoned that 1.5 million homes are illegitimate. The ancient Greek city of Agrigento, on the south coast, is regarded as a classic case. The Valley of the Temples, one of the finest col-

lections of Greek temples in the world, is now surrounded by villas and flats, and construction still goes on.

The aim of the new law is twofold, firstly to raise money. The idea of offering an amnesty in return for payment for past offences, often in the field of taxation, has a long history in Italy. It is maliciously said to date back to the medieval practice of simony, when priests offered sinners a pardon in return for cash.

It was originally hoped that the measure would raise at least £10,000 billion (\$6.5 billion), but with the watering down of the legislation, it is now reckoned that the state will be lucky to raise half that amount.

The second aim is to try to impose a little order on the situation, and to give the municipalities little excuse for continuing to deny essential services to the illegally-built zones.

The law covers any building erected illegally between 1942 and October 1983 — the date at which the first version of the law, presented as a decree, was rejected by parliament in a humiliating setback for the newly-formed government of Mr. Bettino Craxi.

That date has been retained, in the face of opposition, to exclude the many thousands of buildings run up speculatively between the failure of the decree law and the approval in March 1985 of the final law.

Every owner of an illegally-built home is expected to present a request for its existence to be condoned, together with a down payment of a third of the fine, calculated according to the size of the property and its status.

For many smaller properties, the fine may be only £3 million or £4 million, and in the case of poor people can be paid over a five-year period. Indeed, the penalty does not become steep until after the end of September, and even then late-comers have another six months to present their request.

As the law went through parliament, it was made progressively

less harsh, as it was recognised that millions of people would be homeless if they had to wait for permission to build. It was also realised that there was no practical way of distinguishing between ordinary offenders and large-scale speculators.

The municipalities have two years to decide whether or not to condone the offence. It is assumed that they will almost always do so, but if they do not, the building might have to be pulled down, presumably after years of litigation. A dire penalty awaits those who do not seek a pardon; without it no lawyer is authorised to enact the sale or transfer of the house to anyone else.

The authorities believe that with time still in hand for late requests, the law is taking effect. Whether it will make much difference to anything except the government's coffers and the workload of the municipal bureaucracy remains to be seen.

Censis, the Rome-based social research bureau, has estimated that to install services and schools in the illegitimately built zones could cost as much as £25,000 billion, five times as much money as the law may bring in.

But the law is definitely not working in Sicily, where the extent of illegal building is vast. Thousands of Sicilians, egged on by their mayors, set up blocks on roads and railways and thronged menacingly outside offices containing official records.

Rome refused to make major concessions, blaming the island's nearly 400 municipalities, only a quarter of which had ever completed an urban plan. The central government did not see why it should undermine the whole concept of Italian unity by making a new law specific to Sicily. Instead it softened by decree parts of the law which particularly affected poor people.

The island's politicians have now resorted to the Sicilian regional assembly and passed a law excusing Sicilians from complying with this particularly national legislation, a move which the central government has challenged in the constitutional court. The battle is a long way from ending — Financial Times news feature.

Population growth and the African crisis

By Jeannie Peterson

UNITED NATIONS, New York — To say that the current African crisis is solely the result of population growth would be an exaggeration. But African leaders are increasingly pointing out the importance of the population factor. Mr. Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, said a few weeks ago, "the pressure on the land and resources is partly, perhaps mainly, a pressure of people."

The recent coast-to-coast drought along the southern edge of the Sahara desert was the third this century, but its implications in terms of human suffering are the most profound. Because of rapid population growth, more lives were at stake than at any time in Africa's history.

An estimated 25 to 30 million Africans in the 12 countries where the emergency is most crucial continue to be affected by the drought, including 4.5 million displaced persons, according to the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations for Africa (UNEOA).

Although the rains have returned to many of the drought-stricken areas, the crisis is far from over. Twenty African countries are on the U.N.'s emergency list, and twelve remain on the critical list.

Unprecedented emergency assistance is alleviating the more immediate needs. However, unless the underlying causes of the crisis are dealt with, emergency conditions are likely to become a recurring and expected part of the African future.

Among the inter-related problems generally recognised as contributing to the African crisis are population growth, inadequate food supplies and distribution, and degradation of the environmental resource base — particularly land — and inadequate or deficient infrastructure and services. Concentrated and sustained development inputs — par-

ticularly in the population field — will be increasingly important over the next few decades.

World records

Africa's present population, estimated at 553 million, will increase to 877 million by the year 2000, according to the United Nations medium projection. By the year 2025 the continent will hold three times as many people as today. The annual rate of population growth, over three per cent, is higher than in any other region on the globe, and is increasing.

Africa has the world's highest rates of birth and death, and the highest rates of infant mortality. The average number of children born to African women is about six, compared to about two in the developed countries.

Infant mortality

Of every 1,000 babies born in Africa, 114 die within a year of birth, compared to 17 in the developed countries. Some countries experience even higher rates of infant death, such as Mali (146 deaths per thousand births), Gambia (193), and Sierra Leone (200). The average African life expectancy at birth is 50 years, compared with 73 years for the developed countries. Since 1950, much-needed improvements in public health have lengthened the African life span by 12 years.

Feeding the future population

Over the past twenty years, food production per capita has declined in only one region of the world — sub-Saharan Africa. According to a study funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and carried out by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, population growth will outpace national food production, leaving the food needs of 201 million persons

unmet in 30 African countries by the year 2000, unless substantial improvements are made, or food imports are increased to cover the deficit.

Growing demands

A young and expanding population creates increasing demands for education, jobs, housing, health and other services, and water supply. Africa is the youngest continent, with a median age of 17.2, compared to 32.5 for the more developed regions. Between 1980 and 2000, the primary school-age population (6-14 years) is expected to increase by 85 per cent in Africa.

Remarkable changes

As recently as 15 years ago there were virtually no population programmes in Africa, except for limited demographic surveys in some countries, and some pioneering activities by voluntary associations. Censuses had never been taken in many countries.

Most governments showed little or no interest in population issues. Among African governments, recent years have witnessed a remarkable change. According to Mr. Daniel T. Azap Moi, the President of Kenya, "the high rates of population growth threaten the existing levels of living and resource availability as well as provision of social services."

Mr. Leabua Jonathan, prime minister of Lesotho, stated, "what is unfortunate is that basic economic resources like land, employment opportunities, and social services cannot keep up with the demand made on them by an increasing population. It is clear, therefore, that my government, like many others, can barely manage the basic demands of our population which are food, shelter and good health, without sensitising our families and nation to adopt a responsible population management approach."

As the impacts of Africa's surging population growth become apparent, policy-making bodies within African countries, donor governments and United Nations organisations went into action in the 1970s and 1980s. Population assistance to Africa

from multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental sources grew from about \$14 million in 1970 to over \$390 million by the end of 1983.

Over the period 1971-1984, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) provided \$165 million in assistance for population projects in Africa, through voluntary donations from member states of the United Nations.

By the end of 1984, UNFPA was supporting 1,360 African project activities. Of the 53 countries identified as priority countries for UNFPA population assistance, 33 are in Africa.

Virtually all African countries have received support from UNFPA for the collection of basic demographic data, enabling at least 22 of them to conduct their very first censuses, and assisting even more to analyse and use the data in formulating and implementing population policies.

In at least half of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, UNFPA has provided assistance for information and education campaigns, family life and responsible parenthood, in both formal school curricula and out-of-school programmes. Projects to increase awareness of the importance of population issues also received support.

All of the countries in the sub-Saharan region are presently receiving UNFPA support for maternal and child health care and family planning programmes.

African governments are increasingly expressing concern over

problems of high mortality, too-rapid urbanisation, intensified internal and international migration flows, and have called for child-spacing programmes to counteract too-frequent pregnancies and to improve the well-being of families.

UNFPA and other aid organisations receive more requests for population assistance than they can fill. However, external population aid to Africa actually decreased between 1981 and 1984.

Future UNFPA support to Africa, as well as to other regions, is currently in jeopardy because of the possibility that the United States, which ordinarily provides about 1/3 of UNFPA's resources, may withhold its contribution in 1986. The U.S. withheld \$10 million of the \$46 million it had pledged to contribute in 1985 because of UNFPA support for the national population programme in China.

In order for the newly awakened concern of African governments to be expressed in policies and programmes that can effectively deal with their population-related problems, sufficient external aid will be needed. It is unlikely that African governments could accomplish the task without it.

The population issue is basic to the African future. How it is perceived and dealt with today will help to determine whether the region will face a series of repeated crises in the future, or will gain control of its development possibilities — Population Watch.

Syrian and Iranian allies battle

(Continued from page 1) between the two rival factions vying for its control.

Christians support the SSNP, which advocates the merger of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Kuwait and Cyprus into a secular greater Syria. Hizbollah (Party of God) strives for the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon patterned after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime in Iran.

The clash reflected underlying friction between Syria and Iran over Lebanon despite public assertions of their "strategic alliance."

The latest emphasis came from a spokesman for Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who said "brotherly relations" between Syria and Iran "are based on strategic goals."

The spokesman made the statement after an overnight meeting in Damascus between Mr. Khaddam and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Beharati.

The talks covered "bilateral affairs as well as issues concerning Lebanon," the spokesman said, without specifying whether the Mashghara confrontation was involved.

Channel 2 preview
John Botter's weekly TV preview does not appear today due to an indefinite schedule resulting mainly from uncertainties over live coverage of World Cup soccer matches from Mexico. The Channel 2 TV preview will appear in Sunday's issue.

French singer-actor tries new medium — writing films

By Barbara Bright

Reuter

PARIS — Charles Aznavour, who turned a raspy, evocative voice into worldwide success as a singer and actor, is now trying his hand at something new — writing stories for films.

Aznavour, 62, also stars in the first film he has written, a comedy called "The Yiddish Connection" about four Jews who decide to pull off a robbery to finance a wedding and pay for a young singer's first record.

"They're amateurs, so things go wrong. There's a little bad faith, but things end honestly," Aznavour told Reuters between takes for the last scene of the film, which is being shot in Paris.

Aznavour's co-star is Ugo Tognazzi, the ageing Italian lover in the enormously successful film "La Cage aux Folles."

In the film, to be released in September, Tognazzi plays a delicatessen owner and Aznavour said the film has a two-million-dollar budget, large for France but almost nothing for Hollywood.

He wrote the 45-page story but did not attempt the dialogue for the film. "Maybe I'll try that later," he said.

Named best actor at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival for his role in Andre Cayatte's "Passage du Rhin" (Tomorrow is my turn) and well-known for his moving performance in Francois Truffaut's classic "Tirez sur le Pianiste" (Shoot the piano player), Aznavour returned to Cannes this year

as a jury member. Between concert dates in the United States and leisure time at home in Geneva, he is working on another screen story and more love songs.

He has recorded some 450 songs and sold over 100 million records in 80 countries.

"I'm much quicker at writing songs than at writing scenarios," he said. "There you develop a story, the people who enter the story. For a song there's the sentiment inside and that's enough."

For 40 years Aznavour's songs have been about love — "Toujours L'Amour," he said with a smile.

"I always look for different angles, you can't tell a story from the same angle," he explained. "The music has changed perhaps, the orchestration, but you use the same words."

Although he sings and records in French, Spanish, English and Italian, he writes only in French because he insists, "I don't know other languages well enough to make the songs rich."

Aznavour's often bittersweet music continues the boulevardier tradition made famous by the friends of his youth — Edith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier and Charles Trenet.

The Aznavour that millions have seen on stage — the vulnerable Mr. Everyman whose songs tell of mundane triumphs and sorrows with a disarming naturalness — is the same Aznavour seen by the camera or experienced in person.

FIFA told referees to tighten up, protect players

MEXICO CITY (R) — Referees were told to take tougher measures against the hard men of the World Cup after being too lax early in the tournament.

A spokesman for the International Football Federation (FIFA), Guido Tognoni, told Reuters: "Our general feeling was that the referees did not follow FIFA's instructions. They were too lax. We wanted to see the ball players get more protection."

"The referees were not quick enough in pulling out their cards," he added.

Tognoni said FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter decided after the first few days to intervene. "The referees were then instructed to be more strict in interpreting the rules."

"Now we feel the refereeing standards are higher than in many past World Cups. It's also been a pretty clean tournament so far," Tognoni added.

Not everyone agrees. Spain's manager Miguel Muñoz, still smarting over the no-goal decision against Brazil, when a Spanish shot appeared to have crossed the goal-line, criticised the refereeing in all three of Spain's first-round games.

Munoz said the match against Brazil had been "taken away from

us" and that three of his players had been injured against Algeria Thursday.

Iraq's Brazilian manager Evandro Macedo, who had three of his best players suspended before the last match against Mexico, blamed FIFA for bad refereeing and called for the resignation of Harry Cavan of Northern Ireland, chairman of FIFA's referees' commission.

Other managers have criticised the fact that some bad fouls have gone unpunished, while players have been booked for time wasting, over-zealous celebration of goals or arguing with the referee.

Scottish midfielder Gordon Strachan received a yellow card for running over to an advertising board after scoring. Other players, including Bulgarian scorer Nasko Sirakov in the opening game against Italy, Argentina's Diego Maradona and Mexicans Luis Flores and Fernando Quirarte, leapt over the boardings without being booked.

Tognoni defended the split-second decision by Australian referee Chris Brambridge in dis-

allowing the Spanish goal against Brazil and the fact that Brambridge did not consult the linesman.

He said the Australian could still be among the eight referees to be selected by the referees' commission for the remaining 16 World Cup matches.

"If the referee feels sure, he does not have to consult the linesman. Brambridge saw that his linesman was not in an ideal position, so he stuck with his own decision," Tognoni said.

"A referee does not have the benefit of a TV monitor. And in any case, the TV film does not prove the ball crossed the line."

"The night after that match in Guadalajara, I was in the VIP lounge of Guadalajara airport with Javier Arriaga of Mexico, a member of FIFA's referees' commission," Tognoni said. "Arriaga was carrying the match ball used that day. He told me to walk away five yards, then he put the ball on a thick line between two sections of the lounge and asked me if the ball was over the line."

"Of course it is," I said, sure that the ball was well over the line. Then he asked me to come over. In fact, the ball was touching the line. Even from five yards away, I had been convinced it was well on the other side.

Altobelli admits goal wasn't his

PUEBLA, Mexico (AP) — Italian striker Alessandro Altobelli said Thursday that after watching videotapes he has changed his mind about claiming credit for a third goal against South Korea.

"I saw the replay in slow motion on television and I must say I have changed my mind: It was not my goal," Altobelli said. "It is strange, because in the impact with the Korean defender I felt I had hit the ball, but I really missed it."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

King Hassan II congratulates Moroccan team

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — King Hassan of Morocco was one of the first to congratulate the nation's football team Wednesday after they had become the first African nation to win through the preliminary phase of a World Cup finals. He rang the team before the match here against Portugal to give them encouragement and after the 3-1 victory he telephoned again, speaking to each of the players who had gathered in a hotel room. The Moroccan players were overjoyed with the result but being strict Muslims, they toasted their victory in lemonade. "I know the Moroccan people and they will go crazy about this result and will probably celebrate until the next match," said forward Abdelaziz Boudherbala.

Soviet coach checks into hospital

IRAPUATO, Mexico (R) — Soviet team chief Valery Lobanovsky went to hospital for a check-up Thursday after suffering chest pains and stomach trouble, team press officer Roberto Sagasti said. Sagasti said 49-year-old Lobanovsky, given the job of national coach just three weeks before the World Cup finals kicked off, had felt a little weak and had undergone an electrocardiogram test. Lobanovsky, who replaced Eduardo Malofeyev after leading Dynamo Kiev to victory in the European Cup Winners' Cup last month, returned to the hotel as his condition was not serious, he said.

Caller threatens family of coach

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP) — Uruguayan soccer coach Omar Borrás acknowledged Thursday that his family had received telephone threats at their home in Montevideo, but he dismissed the significance of the calls. "It's the work of a crazy — someone who couldn't deal with the loss to Denmark," Borrás said. Uruguay lost a Group E World Cup match to Denmark 6-1 last Sunday. It can still qualify for the second round by getting at least a draw with Scotland on Friday. Borrás said a similar threat had been received at the hotel where the team is staying, but he seemed unconcerned. When a team takes the field, Borrás complained, "it would seem you're going to war. If you lose, they want to see you shot."

Karpov wins grand master tournament

BUGOJNO, Yugoslavia (R) — Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union won the Chess Grand Masters Super Tournament that ended here late Thursday night. Karpov drew against Britain's Tony Miles in a Queen's Indian defence and won the \$6,000 prize in the biggest grand masters tournament in chess history. It was the 64th victory of Karpov's career. "It was an historic tournament in which eight players fought it out to the end," he said after the game. "I am happy I took first place in spite of the fact that I was hiding the variations for my match against (world champion) Gary Kasparov."

Morocco upends its group rivals

By Lawrie Morrison
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — Morocco, seen as makeweights of the World Cup finals, sent a shock wave through the tournament by becoming the first African nation to win a preliminary group.

The bottom seeds of Group F roused the section from its 10-day slumbers Wednesday with a stunning 3-1 win over Portugal in Guadalajara.

Their unparalleled triumph represented a major breakthrough for the unheralded football nations, who in previous finals have filled the role of gallant losers.

Morocco have given a lead to such teams who from now on will be looking to make a much bigger impact on world soccer's month-long showpiece.

Wednesday's victory, which left the jubilant Moroccans top of a group containing three powerful European nations, has earned them the "reward" of a match against either Denmark, unquestionably the most accomplished side so far, or West Germany in the 16-team knockout phase which begins on Sunday.

But their coach Jose Faria, who has worked hard to bring Brazilian-type flair to the Moroccan game, is not bowed by such a challenge.

Faria, himself a Brazilian, said: "I just hope we play Denmark so we can show the world they are not the marvellous side people are talking about. They will probably beat us but I guarantee it won't be easy."

"Morocco winning a group containing Poland, England and Portugal is something worth entering in the history books."

The Moroccans, who gleamed just one point from their only previous appearance in the finals in 1970, had the Portuguese down and out midway through the second half. By then they had built up a 3-0 lead, two of the goals coming from the exciting Abderrazak Khairi.

England, savaged by their fans and the media after inept performances against the Moroccans

and Portugal in their two opening group games, answered their critics with some panache Wednesday.

Without a goal in their previous four World Cup final ties, they suddenly found scoring a simple business against a leaden-footed Polish defence. Or at least Gary Lineker did.

Lineker showed why he was top marksman in the English League last season with an opportunistic hat-trick in the opening 36 minutes to end the match as a contest.

It was the first hat-trick by an England player in the World Cup finals since Geoff Hurst performed the feat in the 1966 final against West Germany.

Manager Bobby Robson, who bore the brunt of the criticism for

England's earlier failings, said his side had played with "much better balance, support, width and variation."

While Paraguay will have to keep a close eye on the speedy Lineker when the two sides battle for a place in the quarter-finals at the Aztec Stadium here next Tuesday, England will have to watch the finishing power of Roberto Cabanas.

He scored both Paraguayan goals in the 2-2 draw with Belgium in Group B in Toluca Wednesday to ensure his side pipped the Belgians for the runners-up spot.

Belgium had the consolation of knowing the one point they collected was enough to keep them in the tournament.

Final Group F Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Morocco	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
England	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Poland	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Portugal	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

Mansell confident of success in Montreal Grand Prix race

By John Phillips
Reuters

is a better car than the one which he raced here last year.

MONTREAL — British driver Nigel Mansell, fresh from his victory in last month's Belgian Grand Prix, says he is confident of his preparations for Sunday's Canadian Formula One event, in which he finished sixth last year.

After driving his Williams to victory in Belgium on May 25, Mansell is third in the 1986 drivers' championship with 18 points against 25 for Brazil's Ayrton Senna who drives a Lotus, and 23 for France's Alain Prost of McLaren, the current champion.

Mansell, who won two successive races on the 1985 circuit, says his Honda-powered Williams

"We've done our homework now," he said. "You have to set the car up very, very correctly to be quick. You need a good balanced car, one with good engine response."

A driver earns nine points for first place, six for second, four for third, three for fourth, two for fifth and one for sixth, and Mansell could overtake Senna and Prost if he wins here.

The Canadian Grand Prix, sixth stop on the 16-event circuit, takes place on an island in the St. Lawrence River.

Prost, with victories at San Marino and Monaco, is the only driver this year to win twice.

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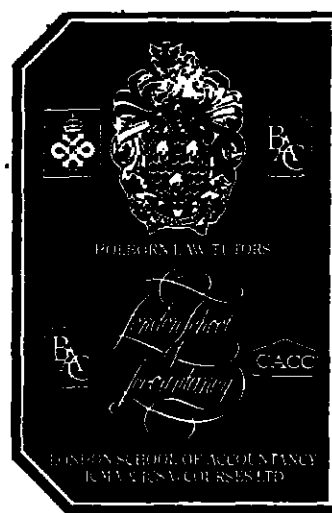
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Tel: 622198

SUMMER RAIN

(Arabic)
Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5147/57	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3860/65	Canadian dollars
	2.2205/15	West German marks
	2.5005/15	Dutch guilders
	1.8360/70	Swiss francs
	45.33/38	Belgian francs
	7.0800/50	French francs
	1524/1525	Italian lire
	166.25/35	Japanese yen
	7.1800/50	Swedish crowns
	7.5750/5800	Norwegian crowns
	8.2300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	347.00/347.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed generally firmer after a mixed opening but trading was quiet particularly during the afternoon, dealers said.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 8.1 at 1,579.9 compared with an opening 1,572.6. News of a 0.2 per cent rise in U.K. retail prices for May was in line with expectations and had little impact on the market. The 0.2 per cent rise makes a year on year increase of 2.8 per cent, the lowest since January 1968.

Soon after the retail price index was announced, government officials said the RPI, which is Britain's main measure of inflation, should show another decline in June.

Most market participants are still hopeful that the next move in 10 per cent U.K. base rates will be down but in the wake of Tuesday's unexpectedly large three per cent rise in sterling M-3 money supply such a reduction is probably not imminent.

Among leaders, ICI rose 25p to 944 and Grand Met 10p to 405 on U.S. support while P and O framed a net 5p to 518. Blue Circle closed 3p down at 618 after touching a low of 606 on renewed fears of cheap cement imports.

Beecham closed 5p off at 388 after Thursday's 7p gain which followed annual results.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A very good day to get into all of the specifics required in any undertaking or venture in which you are engaged, but you have to take the bull by the horns and do something about it.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are able to handle your work most efficiently today, whether it be at home or in the outside world.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early make appointments for evening's entertainment, then get that bill paid up. Your mate is in a tasty mood.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Good day to handle duties for family and get home in better condition. Steer clear of recreation in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) The morning is best for shopping and handling desk work. Later, don't get into a family squabble.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have an opportunity now to get your financial matters improved so that you become more prosperous.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can shop around for whatever you need and get good results. Buy a little gift for your mate and please this person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Any intimate matters can be improved in the morning, so get busy at them, but don't be forceful in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Look to high-minded friends for good ideas that can help you to gain your aims, then do your work alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can handle business well, even though it is the end of the work week, so get busy early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You find that you can further your ambitions quite well during the day, but tonight could prove disappointing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Garner data you need so that you can make a friend of a bigwig you can go to any time you need help.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Good day to converse with a partner until you come to a true understanding with this person. Save money today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she would do well in such professions of exactitude as architecture requiring the reading of intricate blueprints, working computers, etc., so slant the education along such lines. Early teach to be persevering.

THE Daily Crossword by Linda Hooper

ACROSS

- 1 Lady's address
- 5 Clockmaker
- 10 Catchall abbr.
- 14 Greek peak
- 15 Of a certain bone
- 16 Timber's land
- 17 Wedding cake
- 18 A shiver
- 19 "Diss —"
- 20 Changeable
- 23 Fine title
- 24 At a distance
- 25 Walk
- 30 Hatfield's title
- 34 Different
- 35 Dickens title
- 37 Service
- 38 Deep's kin
- 39 Garden insect
- 40 Jealousy
- 41 Year Sp.
- 42 Bicyclist
- 43 "you go"
- 44 "I'm in"
- 45 Berries for
- 46 Ring or code
- 48 Food sick
- 51 Starting point
- 59 Prompt in
- 60 Distributed
- 61 the deck
- 62 Wine finds
- 63 Only
- 64 Happen next
- 65 Gales
- 66 Librarian
- 67 Stamp
- 68 Gilt

DOWN

- 1 Margaret's
- 2 Detective
- 3 A — finger
- 4 Between ports
- 5 HST's daughter
- 6 Apple
- 7 Puzze
- 8 Beguine var.
- 9 Ismail port
- 10 Window wash-
- 11 er's support
- 12 Political
- 13 Legal holding
- 14 Ripening agent
- 15 Swiss railway
- 16 Water pot of
- 17 Calf
- 18 Exile
- 19 Loud shout
- 20 Gorb for a
- 21 superhero
- 22 Most standard
- 23 Father of
- 24 medicine
- 25 Painting style
- 26 Observe
- 27 Jap. native
- 28 Was present
- 29 Green onions
- 30 Raaf's drum
- 31 Take a tumble
- 32 Climaxed
- 33 Roof support
- 34 Space booster
- 35 Door part
- 36 Addict
- 37 Adult filly
- 38 Tobacco dryer
- 39 Chimney part
- 40 Opera song
- 41 Peasy
- 42 It's family

Capital flight symbolises debt crisis

WASHINGTON (R) — Billions of dollars move across borders, shuffled around the world by ousted dictators, financiers and citizens looking to make the most of their money.

Capital flight, as economists call it, occurs wherever there are fears about a country's economy, especially if those likely to be worst affected think a currency is going to be devalued.

Sometimes called "hot money," sometimes "economic plunder," the flight of capital from poor countries to investment havens has become a symbol of the Third World debt crisis.

Analysts in and out of government are studying the phenomenon of fleeing investments, its impact on the world monetary system and whether controls should be implemented.

Often funds are exported legally as a form of investment diversification. But some exports are illegal, breaking currency regulations or involving funds diverted from public treasuries.

Some recent highly-publicised allegations of treasury plunder have captured headlines and imaginations.

The fledgling Philippine government of Mrs. Corason Aquino, for instance, has accused ousted president, Ferdinand Marcos of siphoning up to \$10 billion worth of national assets out of the country during his 20-year rule.

President-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier of Haiti, a country of staggering poverty, sta-

tioned a fortune abroad before being forced to flee, according to the new Haitian government.

There have also been reports alleging that former Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo, who retired to Europe in 1982, had secretly accumulated funds outside Mexico.

Mr. Lopez Portillo denies the allegations, but another surfaced in late April when President Jose Azcona Hoyos of Honduras accused him in a Mexican newspaper interview of siphoning funds out of the country into accounts overseas.

Most capital flight, however, involves small sums and is not illegal. Individuals seeking to protect their wealth, for instance, invest overseas, putting money in Swiss or U.S. bank accounts.

Philippine Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin recently told reporters he "did not know of one doctor or dentist who hadn't taken money out of this country."

While hot money is taken out of a country in search of a safe haven, it often ends up in some high-flying and even risky investments.

In the United States, the safest investments are government securities and they get their share of hot money.

But so does the volatile real estate market. Marcos has become a big-time owner of New York City real estate, according to congressional and other investigators.

Another high-risk magnet for Third World capital is Wall Street,

which has experienced spectacular action in the past few years partly because of a big infusion of foreign funds.

Legal or illegal, capital flight can have catastrophic consequences for cash-starved countries. Reliable statistics are hard to compile because of the complexity of the data.

But in 1982 alone, the last year for which complete figures are available, the flow from eight selected debtor countries — Argentina, Brazil, Chile, South Korea, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela — totalled nearly \$24 billion, according to World Bank economist John Cudington.

Morgan Guaranty Vice President Norman Klatz, who has also examined the problem, says the conservative estimate is that \$120 billion has been taken out of the major Latin American countries over the past decade.

Typically, when they realise that cash is flowing out of their country, governments try to stem the flow with legal barriers. But often it is too late.

The debt crisis surfaced in 1982 when Mexican officials contacted Washington saying they were close to default on the billions they owed. Analysts say the Latin debt crisis built up in steps and that capital flight was one of them.

Many countries had embarked on very ambitious development plans that were kept going with borrowed funds. But then the glo-

Nakasone urges more price cuts

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, faced with criticism of his economic policies ahead of July 6 general elections, Friday ordered his cabinet to do everything it could to ensure Japanese consumers benefit from the strong yen.

The yen has soared more than 30 per cent against the U.S. dollar in the last eight months, slashing the price of Japan's imports, but so far only part of the benefits have been passed on to the ordinary Japanese consumer.

A government spokesman said Mr. Nakasone told the cabinet, "the public know the prices of such imported goods as mangoes, grapefruits, pineapples and onions have dropped" because of the yen's appreciation, but they want more.

"They still seem not to be happy about the prices of high grade imported goods such as neckties, cosmetics and clothing," he said. He also suggested more frequent discount sales of imported beef and lower prices for whisky.

Mr. Nakasone has come in for criticism for the strong yen from exporters who are complaining bitterly that they are losing sales and profits abroad.

Economists say the strong yen is now cutting exports by forcing up the price of Japanese goods abroad at a time when top overseas markets, such as the United States and China, are looking weaker and not buying as much as before.

But a Japanese recession is like no other, the economists said. The United States defines a recession as two consecutive quarters of falling output. In Japan that definition doesn't apply, since the economy here rarely slows down, much less falls.

"We are entering a growth recession," Sumitomo Bank's chief economist, Mr. Masahiko Koido, explained.

"The economy has reached a significant changing point," he added. "The major factors that have led Japan's growth over the past five years are fading."

Net exports are falling and companies are cutting back on their capital spending plans.

Economists at Fuji Bank agreed. "The first half (of the fiscal year ending next March) will be characterised by a strong mood of recession," they said in a recent report.

Abu Dhabi closes oil and gas plant

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi, hit by falling oil income, is laying off workers and has stopped production at one of its oil and gas facilities to cut operational costs, oil industry sources said Thursday.

They told Reuters some workers at the Bab oil field operated by the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO) and associated plant operated by the Abu Dhabi Gas Industries (Gasco) have had their contracts terminated.

Others were to be transferred to different plants operated by Gasco which employs 130 workers at the Bab plant, they said. They did not say how many employees were affected.

Gasco's General Manager Gerit Kroon told the Dubai-based daily Gulf News in an interview the closure might last for some years.

Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, has been producing around

one million barrels of oil a day, its highest level in four years. But the slump in oil and gas prices has sharply cut revenues.

The state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) said last month it was cutting salaries and staff benefits to rationalise costs.

The industry sources noted gas prices had fallen to \$125 a ton in the second quarter of this year from \$217 in the final quarter of 1985, and contributed to the closure decision.

The Bab oil field, one of five operated by ADCO, produced 22 million cubic feet of associated gas per day in 1984 and 15,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude. Official 1985 figures are not available, but industry sources say they are probably similar to 1984.

ADCO's Asab field produced 219,000 b/d of crude and 177 million cubic feet daily in 1984. Bu Hasa 212,000 b/d of crude and 262 million cubic feet of gas daily.

Fortunes of Gulf Arab banks dive

BAHRAIN (R) — The fortunes of banks in the Gulf, which thrived on huge revenues generated by the 1970s oil boom, have slumped along with world oil prices.

Oil market weakness has sliced government receipts in states forming the Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Government income of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is estimated at less than a third of its 1981-2 peak of \$113 billion.

Earlier this month, the kingdom devalued its currency 2.7 per cent against the dollar to boost revenue and help reduce its budget deficit. The same reason was cited for a 10.2 per cent devaluation by Oman in February.

While the economies of the six Gulf Arab states have been transformed by oil wealth in the last decade, they are still dominated and driven by governments.

As governments were forced to slash spending, they brought about recession, a dramatic contrast to the extraordinary economic growth of the 1970s which fuelled the banking boom.

"The bubble has well and truly burst," said a banker in Kuwait of the banking sector, while the general manager of a Bahrain-based institution said: "Nobody expected the bottom to fall out of the market the way it has."

While bankers in each Gulf Arab state have different preoccupations, they are all concerned about a growing mountain of bad loans and a lack of profitable new business.

Although authorities have pushed through mergers in the UAE, a proposed merger of five banks in Bahrain last year foundered, partly because of boardroom objections.

A survey of the six states showed: Saudi Arabia — The private sector debt problem, dubbed by a U.S. news magazine as the "debt crisis in the desert," is the main

preoccupation for the 11 commercial banks in the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia's legal system, based on Islam which forbids usury, does not recognise interest and court judgements are difficult to enforce when they do go in the banks' favour.

Bankers say some Saudis who can pay debts are hiding behind the courts to escape their obligations, while several big companies owing together billions of dollars have also been forced to reschedule.

Seven of the nine banks who reported 1985 earnings had reduced profits, while the other two announced losses.

Kuwait — Kuwait's central bank is getting tough with the banks to ensure they cover themselves against doubtful loans.

After four years of recession and with business confidence hit by the Iran-Iraq war, banks are still trying to ride out a crisis caused by a multi-billion dollar stock market crash in 1982.

The six commercial banks' 1985 earnings generally fell well short of 1984, and much cash was "toughed back into reserves."

Only two banks out of five to report results declared a 1985 dividend, and there have been boardroom shake-ups, encouraged by the central bank.

Bahrain — The Gulf's financial centre has more than 70 banks of all shades. With exposure in all Gulf states, health of the banks here reflects largely where their loans are. Many have big exposure in Saudi Arabia.

A construction and trade slump

has cut their associated income from fees. The only bright spot for some banks has been success in so-called "private banking," where private wealth is channelled mainly to Western financial markets.

Bahrain Monetary Agency Governor Abdullah Saif has said he expects competition to become more acute.

UAE — Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar said recently: "The size of the market is shrinking and competition is tightening. The market will in itself force, through smaller profits or the lack of them, some foreign banks to pull out."

Fortunes of its 22 local and foreign banks are expected to follow the economy.

Qatar — The Qatar Monetary Agency is extending its influence over the five local and 10 foreign banks in an economy which has shrunk in four out of the last five years.

"On the business side, we're very much the same as the rest of the Gulf... banks are searching for good means to lend to," said one banker in Doha.

Others were to be transferred to different plants operated by Gasco which employs 130 workers at the Bab plant, they said. They did not say how many employees were affected.

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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



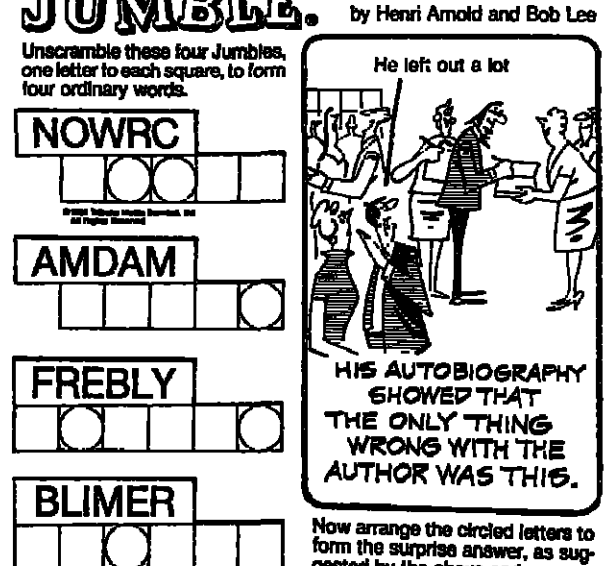
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS AFOUT BICKER SPLEEN

Answer: What a good tongue sandwich should do—SPEAK FOR ITSELF

Austria announces new cabinet members after Waldheim victory

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Chancellor-designate Franz Vranitzky announced his new cabinet on Friday, less than a week after Kurt Waldheim's presidential election victory touched off a major shakeup in the Socialist leadership.

Dr. Waldheim, supported by the Conservative People's Party, took 53.9 per cent of the votes in Sunday's election, winning a clear victory over Mr. Kurt Steyer, the Socialist candidate who took 46.1 per cent.

Although the president is not supposed to participate directly in government politics, Dr. Waldheim's decisive victory showed a serious loss of support for the Socialists, who have been governing since 1970.

Commentators said the new cabinet reflected a swing away from the traditional Socialist welfare-state outlook toward a new pragmatism more on the political right.

Chancellor Fred Sinowatz resigned and was replaced by Vranitzky, former director of the country's second-largest bank and former finance minister.

Leopold Gratz, the foreign minister, and Guenther Haiden, the agriculture minister who has been

who was alleged to have been involved in war crimes while a German soldier in World War II, raised a storm of international protest, particularly in Israel. Dr. Waldheim denied any wrongdoing.

But the Socialist leaders have steered clear of terming the shakeup a protest. They are calling instead for a rejuvenation of the party in advance of parliamentary elections next April. The Conservatives are hoping Dr. Waldheim's victory as head of state will give them momentum to take over the government in those elections.

The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, condemned outbursts in the Israeli parliament Wednesday, including the tearing up of an Austrian flag by extreme right-wing deputy Meir Kahane.

A statement Thursday night said destruction of the flag "is greeted with highest indignation as an insult to the Austrian state symbol."

"An incident of this kind in a public parliament meeting of a democratic state is regrettable in the highest degree and negative for international coexistence," the statement said.

Kremlin repeats call for 'star peace'

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin has reiterated its proposal for "star peace," calling for creation of an international space organization, according to a letter sent to the United Nations and published Friday.

The proposal, contained in a letter from Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, repeats Soviet appeals for a ban on space weapons and an end to nuclear testing.

In the place of the United States' "insane Star Wars plans," what is needed is a world space organization to combine international resources for the benefit of all nations in peaceful exploration of the cosmos, Mr. Ryzhkov said.

A resolution introduced by the Soviets at the United Nations last year made the same offer, calling for an international conference to establish the world organization and set its agenda.

"In the nuclear space age, security can be achieved only for all and only through blocking the spread of weapons into outer space and through nuclear disarmament," Mr. Ryzhkov wrote, according to the letter published by the official news agency TASS.

The three-stage project, as envisioned by the Soviets, would convene an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. no later than 1990 at which the international space organization would be created.

Citing the "recent success" of the international project exploring Halley's Comet in March, Mr. Ryzhkov said the organization could develop projects for using space to improve communication, navigation, search and rescue, weather forecasting, medical research and energy planning.

The organization would promote "major projects on joint construction of spacecraft, including orbital stations and platforms for scientific and commercial undertakings, interplanetary manned spacecraft for practical exploration and use of the moon even in the first decades of the 21st century, which could be also used as a base for flights to other planets," Mr. Ryzhkov said.

It would be financed "primarily by countries possessing large space potentials and by economically developed states," the letter said.

"This is the concrete 'Star Peace' programme proposed by the Soviet Union to the world community, which firmly believes that the terrestrial civilisation should enter the 21st century with this programme and not with the insane Star Wars plans," Mr. Ryzhkov said.

Colombo warns of more guerrilla bomb attacks

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government issued a public warning of more guerrilla bomb attacks in crowded places after three blasts killed 24 people.

National Security Minister Lath Athulathudali said: "I think terrorists will make more attempts to explode bombs at places where people gather such as hotels, railway stations, bus halts, government departments and big shops."

In a statement broadcast over state radio Thursday night Mr. Athulathudali called for increased vigilance against bombs and said "if we are on the alert we can reduce that threat by 99 per cent, if not 100 per cent."

Twenty two people were killed and 70 wounded when bombs ripped through two buses in the eastern port of Trincomalee on Wednesday.

The government said guerrillas fighting to set up a separate homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils, were responsible for the blasts in which Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims, another minority, were the victims.

A bomb explosion outside a Colombo cinema showing a Tamil love film on Wednesday night killed two people and wounded more than 30. Police said they were still looking for the culprits.

Fifty five people were killed by bombs last month on an Air Lanka plane, the Central Telegraph Office in Colombo, on a train in a Colombo suburb and at a soft drinks plant in the capital.

Colombia, fearing volcano eruption, urges evacuation

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian government, fearing a fresh eruption of the killer volcano Nevado Del Ruiz, warned people living within 20 kilometres of the mountain to evacuate their homes.

The warning affects 1,500 people still living near the 17,800-foot (5,400-metre) volcano which killed 23,000 people when it erupted last Nov. 15, triggering huge mudslides.

A presidential communique said people living in a 10-kilometre radius faced high risk and those up to 20 kilometres away faced serious risk.

A state of emergency has been in force at the volcano 120 kilometres northwest of Bogota since May 4, with thousands of people ready to evacuate their homes at any moment.

Scientists have reported sharply increased seismic activity over the past weeks.

A member of a monitoring team, Hans Juergen Meyer, said Friday nobody could predict when or if an eruption would occur. "It can be a matter of hours or years," he said.

Mr. Najibullah said the government would spare no effort to improve the armed services and the conditions of military life. He said the government was building, new military induction and training centres and would provide all the necessary weapons.

The government will care for each soldier's family while he is in the military and even afterwards if he died, the leader said.

Mr. Najibullah denounced Afghans who dodged military service as "traitors" who do not deserve to be called human beings. Afghan women would never marry such men, he said.

He said he has been on a major campaign to try to raise popular support for the government and step up the war effort against the insurgents. He has said repeatedly that he is determined to defeat them.

Mr. Najibullah replaced Babrak Karmal on May 4 after the Soviet Union reportedly became unhappy about the Afghan government's failure to defeat the guerrillas and win popular support. Mr. Najibullah was the former head of state security.

Chinese party has no opposition faction

PEKING (R) — A senior Chinese Communist Party official said Friday there was no opposition faction within the party, but he added that some party members had "different opinions" on the reforms of top leader Deng Xiaoping.

Party official Wu Xingtang told a press briefing that the party leadership realised that many old-line officials were taking a wait-and-see attitude to the economic and political reforms.

"There is no opposition faction within the party which is against the reforms. But this reform process is a revolution and there are naturally going to be different opinions on the reforms within such a large party," Mr. Wu said.

The official, Chinese media have recently carried a number of articles saying reformers were under attack.

Mr. Wu, spokesman for the party's International Liaison Department, also confirmed there would be an important party meeting later this year to consider the agenda for the party's 13th congress, scheduled for the second half of 1987.

Asked to comment on a statement by party chief Hu Yaobang, at present on a tour of Western Europe, that he would be stepping down from some of his posts at the congress, the official said: "Rejuvenation of the leadership of our country is one of our principles. But at the same time, a large country such as China also needs some older comrades who are rich in experience and are respected at home and abroad as leaders."

Observers expect the 13th congress next year to be a watershed in Chinese politics, marking the retirement of a number of the old leaders.



Highest prices ever paid for Fairuz's London performance

LONDON (R) — Tickets were reported to be changing hands for £1,000 (\$1,500) as fans flew in from as far away as south America for a concert in London Friday night by Fairuz, the Arab World's top female singer. "People are coming from Brazil and all over Europe," said Leila Tannous, honorary secretary of the British-Lebanese Association, which is sponsoring the concert. One hundred sterling (\$150) tickets for the concert at London's Royal Festival Hall were snapped up from the box office months ago and have since changed hands for £1,000 each, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) official reported. A festival hall official said: "This is the largest box-office taking we've ever had for anyone."

Lebanon's locust fears caused by crickets

BEIRUT (R) — Agriculture Minister Adel Oseiran has said that reports of an influx of locusts, insects which once brought famine to Lebanon, were incorrect. "What appeared were crickets... it is a normal event that the ministry deals with every year," he told Reuters. Health Ministry sources said earlier this month that locusts immune to pesticides had destroyed plants and attacked trees in three coastal villages north of Beirut. Oseiran said his ministry had sent insecticides to deal with the crickets. One newspaper said a lack of rain in inland mountain areas had caused a shortage of fruit and smaller insects, forcing crickets to move nearer the coast for food. Famine wiped out a third of Lebanon's population in 1916 when locust swarms, coinciding with a naval blockade by French and British forces, destroyed large cultivated areas.

U.S. envoy with gun stopped at airport

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — A U.S. diplomat was detained briefly at Larnaca airport Friday when he tried to board a British Airways flight to London with a pistol in his luggage, Cypriot security sources said. The diplomat, whose name was not revealed, was described by the sources as a security expert accredited to Lebanon, who arrived in Cyprus two days ago after a two-month tour in Beirut. He was allowed to leave on the flight after depositing his gun with the British captain. "This is not the first such incident with security people from Lebanon," one airport source told Reuters.

W. Germans spy on wrong game

QUERATARO, Mexico (R) — Morocco's shock 3-1 victory over Portugal upset the best laid plans of West German manager Franz Beckenbauer. Beckenbauer, whose team will face Morocco if they finish second in Group E, sent coach Berti Vogts to the other Group F game in Monterrey involving Poland and England in the expectation the Poles would win the group. In the event, England won 3-0 to finish second and push the Poles into third place while Morocco's unexpected win took them to the top of the group. "It's too bad," Beckenbauer commented. "But we've got videos of all Morocco's games and we'll use them if they turn out to be our next opponents."

Brain-dead woman, fetus to be kept alive

SANTA CLARA, California (R) — The boyfriend of a pregnant, brain-dead woman has won a court order barring a California hospital from disconnecting her life-support system until she has given birth. His lawyer, said, Derrick Poole, 31, obtained the order about an hour before his girlfriend Marie Odette Henderson was to be taken off the life-support system, attorney Mark Swendsen said. Henderson, 34, who is six months pregnant, had been suffering from a tumour and was declared brain-dead last Saturday. Santa Clara County superior court Judge John Flaherty set a hearing for June 25 when he will consider medical evidence on both the mother and the unborn child. At a news conference, the judge said he issued the order because he decided the six-month-old fetus had the same rights as any other human being.

Kohl party faces close fight in key state polls

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats face a close fight on Sunday in a key state ballot which is being viewed as a barometer for national elections in January and has given financial markets the jitters.

But latest opinion polls on the contest in Lower Saxony show improving prospects for Mr. Kohl's conservatives to scrape back into power in the northern state, an outcome likely to boost the chancellor's authority and calm nervous investors.

West German commentators have billed the election the most important regional poll in years because of its national implications.

Lower Saxony, with nearly six million voters, closely mirrors the national electorate and will be the last accurate test of the public mood before Mr. Kohl's government faces its own electoral battle in seven months.

Beyond that, victory for the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) in the state would give the party a majority in the Bundestag (upper house) of the Bonn parliament for the first time and with it the power to block government legislation.

Early predictions of defeat for the conservatives and an advance by the SPD and anti-industrial Greens made West German financial markets jumpy and depressed stock prices. More recent surveys appear to have eased the nervous atmosphere.

A poll by the Emind Institute published Thursday gave the CDU 47 per cent of the vote in Lower Saxony, compared with 38 per cent for the SPD, six per cent for the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and eight per cent for the environmentalist Greens.

A result of that order would allow CDU state Premier Ernst Albrecht, who won 51 per cent at the last poll in 1982, to form a centre-right coalition on the Bonn model with the FDP.

A survey by the magazine Stern gave a different forecast, with

both CDU and SPD netting 44 per cent, the FDP 4.5 per cent and the radical Greens seven per cent.

Such an outcome would leave the FDP below the minimum five per cent needed to gain seats in parliament and pave the way for an SPD minority government supported by the Greens.

But Stern said the FDP usually netted more votes on the day than poll surveys predicted and it also noted a trend in favour of the centre-right.

In the wake of the April 26 atomic reactor disaster at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union the popularity of the largely pro-nuclear CDU and FDP slumped in Lower Saxony while support for the anti-nuclear SPD and Greens appeared to be rocketing.

But the financial world's daily, the Handelsblatt, Thursday calmed its readers with the news the "Chernobyl factor" was fading in the state. It predicted a very close election but said the CDU's chances were steadily improving.

Another poll, published Thursday by the mass circulation daily Bild, brought even more good news for Mr. Kohl, showing him ahead of his SPD rival in the January election, Mr. Johannes Rau, for the first time.

Asked who they would choose if they could elect the chancellor directly, 49 per cent chose Mr. Kohl and 45 per cent Mr. Rau. A month ago the figures were reversed.

Mr. Kohl, who hit record lows in the polls a few weeks ago, appears to have benefitted chiefly from a decision by state prosecutors to drop two perjury probes against him and by his creation of a new Ministry for Environment and Reactor Safety.

Less than a month ago, CDU officials were predicting privately that a defeat in Lower Saxony could prompt a party rebellion against Mr. Kohl and lead to his replacement by popular Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Punjab urges revision of land row verdict

NEW DELHI (R) — Punjab's moderate Sikh government Friday called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to reconsider the verdict of a commission into a land dispute between the Sikh majority state and neighbouring Haryana.

The Punjab cabinet stopped short of rejecting the ruling but urged Mr. Gandhi to strike out certain recommendations that it said were beyond the commission's terms of reference.

Several leading Sikh politicians told Reuters the cabinet decision was a further blow to Mr. Gandhi's attempt to implement a peace accord signed with moderate Sikhs last July.

The commission ruled that Punjab should cede 70,000 acres (28,300 hectares) to Hindu-majority Haryana in exchange for the two states' joint capital, Chandigarh.

"The cabinet places on record its deep sense of anguish to find that the commission had made recommendations unwarranted by its terms of reference," a state government statement said.

It called on Mr. Gandhi to review the commission's report and

"strike down the portions transgressing and violating these terms of reference."

The Haryana government Thursday accepted the long awaited judgement, which gave the state about one quarter of the Punjab land it demanded.

Mr. Gandhi has said the transfer of Chandigarh, already postponed from Jan. 26, would go ahead on June 21.

The Punjab cabinet called an emergency meeting of the state assembly for June 17 to debate the verdict.

Sikh politicians said they were unhappy that the commission had not stuck to its original task of identifying villages for transfer to Haryana on the basis of contiguity and language.

The commission, under Judge E.S. Venkataramiah, asked Mr. Gandhi to set up another commission to do that job.

It said the transfer should be carried out "without insisting upon proof regarding the question of whether they are Hindi-speaking or Punjabi-speaking villages."

Bangladesh insurgents burn hill settlers' village

DHAKA (R) — Tribal insurgents killed at least two settlers, wounded five others and burned several homes in a pre-dawn attack in Bangladesh's southern Chittagong Hill Tracts district, officials said.

They said heavily armed Shanti Bahini guerrillas stormed Panchari village, only about 700 metres from a military camp, when most people were still asleep.

Residents told reporters the raiders fired sub-machineguns, threw children into a courtyard and hit elders with rifle bullets before setting homes on fire.

Hundreds of settlers, who were moved to the district under a government plan to ease overcrowding on the plains, have fled the village, said an official at the hill tracts headquarters in Rangamati.

On Wednesday the guerrillas

tried to blow up two culverts on the highway linking Rangamati to Chittagong apparently to cut military supplies, said an officer who declined to be named.

Shanti Bahini insurgents launched the new offensive as Bangladesh and six other south Asian nations were holding a meeting in Dhaka to try to eliminate terrorism in their region.

Security officials from the seven were Friday discussing behind closed doors a proposed extradition treaty and other measures to help stamp out terrorism.

Thursday at the opening session of a three-day study group meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which links Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, The Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Aquino tells politicians not to seek guns, goons or money

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corason Aquino told politicians Friday to play it clean in the coming elections and not to approach her for guns, goons or money.

"Definitely I had no guns, I had no goons, but I think I had something more important than any of these things and that was the faith and confidence of the Filipino people," Mrs. Aquino said, recalling her Feb. 7 election battle against Ferdinand Marcos.

"Because of this I am now your president," she told more than 150 governors and mayors whom she appointed after she sacked local officials belonging to Marcos' former ruling party.

Philippine elections traditionally have been marked with violence, with many local politicians using private armies to terrorise opponents.

Marcos himself was accused by opponents of using goons and money to terrorise people and buy votes in the February election. Charges of election fraud triggered a civilian-backed military revolt that ousted Marcos.

A presidential spokesman has said Mrs. Aquino plans to call

provincial or legislative elections or both by March next year.

"Please don't come to me and tell me when election time comes around, 'you know Cory, we have no money, we have no guns, we have no goons,'" Mrs. Aquino said in her speech at a local hotel.

Mrs. Aquino said she realised "money is also an important ingredient" in an election and that "nobody ever won just on saliva."

"But I think we should try to inspire not only ourselves but our people that it is time-to bring about the changes that we have long been talking about," she said.

The new government has been criticised for firing Marcos' party men in an effort to clean up the government. Some of those ousted replaced have refused to vacate their posts, causing local political tensions.

Meanwhile, diehard supporters of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos have received up to one billion pesos (\$50 million) to undermine the government of Mrs. Aquino, a leading Manila newspaper said Friday.

Malaya quoted unnamed military sources as saying the funds to finance street rallies and other

measures to embarrass the government had come from Marcos himself, businessmen loyal to him and former military chief Fabian Ver.

There was no official confirmation of the report.

Marcos and Gen. Ver have lived in exile in Hawaii since February when a civilian-backed military revolt ended Mr. Marcos' 20-year rule and brought Mrs. Aquino to power.

Malaya quoted a military officer as saying: "Our estimate is that the Marcos loyalists can easily tap one billion pesos which may not even be in the banks."

The officer said the military was wary of warlords many of whom have gone underground since the fall of Marcos.

Many political warlords loyal to the ousted leader are still in possession of thousands of high-powered weapons issued to them for their private armies.

Muslim chief Alim Dimaporo of Lanao Del Sur province in the south surrendered 170 firearms in a well-publicised ceremony on Tuesday but the government subsequently discovered he had handed in unusable old

arms, including some of World War I vintage.

Dinaporo, who was dismissed as governor of Mindanao by the Aquino government but refused to allow his successor to take over, was given 10 days after the end of Ramadan to surrender nearly 700 weapons, including about 700 issued just before presidential elections last February.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Gutang said he was awaiting permission to disarm Dinaporo. Malaya quoted the former governor as saying in an interview that he was waiting for the general to move in "so I can kill him."

Military authorities have postponed police action three times against the Muslim leader who has also threatened to arrest Gutang within two weeks.

Another political warlord, 80-year-old Ramon Durano of Davao on the central Philippine island of Cebu, has bounced back into business after announcing his retirement last month.

"People are clamouring for my return. I have been told Cebu politics is not lively without my presence, so I am now back," the Philippine News Agency quoted him as saying.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHO DEALT THIS MESS!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ A Q 9 7 6 4	♠ K 10	♠ A Q 9 7 6 4	♠ K 10
♥ A Q 7 5 2	♥ K 10	♥ A Q 7 5 2	♥ K 10
♦ A Q 7 5 2	♦ K 10	♦ A Q 7 5 2	♦ K 10
♣ A Q 7 5 2	♣ K 10	♣ A Q 7 5 2	♣ K 10

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	3 ♠	3 ♠	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠.

Tournament players often complain that computer-dealt hands tend toward freak distributions. Certainly, the weirdest hand we have seen for years dropped up during the Spingold Team Championship at the recent ACBL Summer National Championships in Las Vegas. However, the boards were dealt by hand at the table, not by computer.

South's first two bids confirmed a long, strong club suit and a limited